



By Mike Morsch  
Executive Editor

It became apparent to me at the end of the “Benefit for Haiti” concert Sunday evening in Sellersville that I can no longer dance.

This is not entirely breaking news because people who have seen me dance (I’m pretty sure I peaked in 1977 during the Disco Age) would say that I didn’t know how to dance even when I did know how to dance. Those flashing disco lights went a long way toward hiding a lot of geeky inadequacies and bad hair back then, which was lucky for me or I would have never gotten a date.

What brought me to the inevitable and obvious conclusion on my lack of dancing abilities was the performance at the concert by Roger Apollon, front man for the ska band Bigger Thomas.

I wasn’t really familiar with the term “ska” — I think it’s a French word or something like that — but apparently it means “Look at that crazy-go-nuts Roger sing and dance like his hair is on fire.” Now I know.

Roger, whose parents are both Haitian, hooked up with Sellersville Theater 1894 owner William Quigley, and with the help of a few of their friends — Philadelphia singer-songwriter Dan May; Ambler singer-songwriter Lizanne Knott along with the big-voiced John Conahan; North Wales native Sharon Little along with Scot Sax; Mike Brenner and Hoagy Wing (and really, isn’t Hoagy Wing a great name?) of Slo-Mo; and I&I — who all appeared for no fee to put on a benefit show to aid Haiti relief efforts.

The goal was to collect \$10,000 through 100 percent of ticket and beverage sales, raffle giveaways and passing the hat. But it was such a community effort that the sellout crowd ended up exceeding that goal and rounding up \$12,000, which will be given to the International Red Cross to benefit the earthquake victims in Haiti. A special shoutout goes to William and the ST94 staff who all donated their time without pay, something pretty special in this day given our economic uncertainties.

Speaking of the ST94 staff — a first-class bunch that pays attention to the closest of details — you will also be happy to know that, referencing last week’s column in this space, there also are no stink bugs in the Sellersville Theater, a fact relayed to The Blonde Accountant by one of the ST94 bartenders prior to the show. Now that’s a good bartender who can serve up a cold one and an updated pest report at the same time.

But back to Roger and Bigger Thomas. These guys are a high-octane group that has appeared at ST94 several times, although it was the first time I had seen them.

Since Roger likes to dance, he believes we should all get up and dance with him. This is all fine and good. In the past, I’ve been known to get out of my chair every once in a while at a concert and shake my booty. Of course, that was before I got to an age where shakin’ my booty didn’t cause me to throw out my hip. And my back. And pull a hamstring. Come to think of it, I may just be lugging around too much booty

these days.

But it's at the point now where I'm perfectly content to sit and just enjoy the concert — a sure sign of OldGuyHood — despite the fact that I am at times forced to stare at somebody's hind end throughout the evening. (“Hey you crazy kids, down in front!”)

But Roger was having none of that at this show; he wanted fannies up out of the chairs. He was not concerned in the least about my hip, back or hamstring. We all realize that what happened in Haiti was a terrible tragedy, but by golly, there was a party going on and Roger seemed to want to dance with all 315 of us. At the same time.

Roger danced on the stage, he danced in the aisles, he danced on the tables and he even adeptly walked on top of the theater seats through the crowd. It was a spirited and impressive performance.

Good for him. Good for us. Good for Haiti. Bad for my hip.

In fact, the trombone player for Bigger Thomas, a guy in my size range who gave that trombone seven ways of heck, was jumping around and singing, too. I got tired just watching all the guys in Bigger Thomas. But I get winded getting out of the recliner and walking to the refrigerator.

There were so many things about the evening with which to be impressed. But for me, it was the community vibe that stood out. The Sellersville Theater, the performers, the volunteer staffers, those who attended — it was a true community effort.

As we were walking out of the theater after the show, a lady looked at me and said, “I don't like stink bugs either,” which drew a laugh from those around us who got the reference. Thank you, madam, for playing along and entertaining us on the way out the door.

Had they been in attendance, I believe even the stink bugs would have gotten up and danced at this concert. But the only thing we got a whiff of on that particular night was the goodness of humankind. And my wife and I were heartened to be part of that special evening.

Mike Morsch is executive editor of Montgomery Newspapers. He can be reached by calling 215-542-0200, ext. 415, or by e-mail at [msquared35@yahoo.com](mailto:msquared35@yahoo.com). This column can be found at [www.montgomerynews.com](http://www.montgomerynews.com).