



## Flomberg: Lannie's is fit for the King



Dave Flomberg  
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I've seen Elvis.

I've seen Elvis in myriad forms and faces, in taped recordings and on the T-shirts of old women wearing costume jewelry and too much makeup in Memphis. I've seen Elvis on products as diverse as lunchboxes, board games, religious iconography and dinner plates.

I've seen Indian Elvis, black Elvis, Chinese Elvis, old Elvis, baby Elvis, fat Elvis, thin Elvis, jumpsuit Elvis, '68 Comeback Elvis, rockabilly Elvis and even Elvis Costello.

I've spent my fair share of time in Las Vegas, land of 10,000 Elvises. And I've borne witness to Val Kilmer's Elvis, Harvey Keitel's Elvis, Don Johnson's Elvis and Kurt Russell's Elvis on screen.

And on Jan. 8 I saw The Velvet Elvis, Jonny Barber, who is, hands down, the best Elvis I've seen (save for that Costello guy) live.

Certainly, the stage was perfect for it. It was the King's birthday - he would have been 72 (or *is* 72, depending on which tabloid you read) - and Barber was at Lannie's Clocktower Cabaret.

Mrs. Buzz and I made a date night of it with dinner at PF Chang's (love their fried rice) and then a short jaunt over to the club in the old D&F Tower.

Stunning.

From the found-object golden chandeliers made of boots and clock parts to the table linens to the mosaic bannisters to the high-back booths to the intimate stage, Lannie's Clocktower Cabaret somehow manages to capture everything in its name in physical reality:

- **Lannie:** Lannie Garrett, ageless and ebullient redhead and longtime Denver-diva darling
- **Clocktower:** A timeless chunk of Denver history, the building erases the anachronism of a variety-style nightclub in today's hip-hop, bling and rock 'n' roll world.
- **Cabaret:** a small room designed for showcasing a variety of acts

Through a medley of rockabilly Elvis-era tunes and Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins and Hank Williams covers, Barber and bassist Michael Baird put together an educational, high-energy romp through the face of early-'50s rock, sprinkled with snippets of sparkling reverie and punctuated with chunks of cabaret-appropriate comedy. As Mrs. Buzz put it: "I haven't had this much fun in months." And we *do* have lots of fun.

During the show, Barber asked the crowd if there was interest in an Elvis gospel brunch at Lannie's. If he's the Elvis, I'm a bruncher.

It's just another in a long line of reasons to flock to Lannie's, not the least of which is the redux of Lannie's Patsy Decline show, which opens Saturday night and runs most Friday and Saturday nights through March. The next month alone includes comedy, burlesque, Vegas-themed drag shows and plenty of live music.

Lannie's is something new, carefully crafted from pages of the old.

### Lannie's Clocktower Cabaret

1601 Arapahoe St. (lower level) 303-293-0075

- Parking close-in is a challenge, but Lannie's is on the 16th Street Mall shuttle, so park anywhere and catch the free bus ride.
- Catch Pierre's naughty burlesque and comedy show on Thursdays; the Demented Divas drag show is on Tuesdays.
- Soul School plays Motown, R&B and classic soul on Wednesdays.

### About Dave Flomberg

Dave Flomberg writes about nightlife for the Rocky Mountain News. He hates L.A., thinks David Lynch is a genius, and always doubles down on eleven.