



Inside Move: Catching up with...Climan

Vegas' hot ticket turns showman

By NICOLE LAPORTE
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When Caesars Entertainment was looking for the consummate Hollywood insider to help infuse its Las Vegas properties with some Tinseltown spectacle, the company went to Sandy Climan.

The former CAA honcho and Universal exec, who now runs his own strategic consulting and investing firm, Entertainment Media Ventures, and produces movies and TV series on the side, took the bait.

Two years later, Climan is waking up to rave reviews of the new Elton John gig at Caesars Palace and just closed a deal for the rock musical "We Will Rock You," based on the music of Queen, to open at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel this fall. (The show has grossed \$75 million in its London run.)

Climan was an architect of Jerry Seinfeld's return to Caesars, as well as Luciano Pavarotti's Feb. 28 gig, though he insists he's just doing what comes naturally -- and having the time of his life.

"With my background in motion pictures and TV, I've always had a love of live entertainment," he says. "My relationship with Caesars has allowed me to expand on that."

The only difference, really, is that he's working in Nevada now. "Las Vegas is becoming the entertainment capital of the world for live entertainment, there's no question," he says.

Not that his Hollywood duties are getting the short shrift. Last year, Climan co-exec produced Michael Mann's "Robbery Homicide" for CBS, and he's a producer on the upcoming Howard Hughes bio-pic "The Aviator," starring Leonardo DiCaprio.