



"Everybody would ask, 'What's a Scinta?' so we had to show them what a Scinta was," Joe Scinta (pronounced shin-ta) said.

In 1988, Frank Scinta beat an addiction to cocaine and alcohol. The experience brought the siblings closer together and Frank wrote an inspirational song against drugs. The tune was adopted by the D.A.R.E. program and Frank Scinta was honored by President Reagan for his efforts.

They each admit to squabbles backstage over the years, as any family can attest to. Still, it has provided them with a strong bond.

Tired from constantly proving themselves in towns across the country, the family decided to settle into Las Vegas. They arrived in 2000 and set out to prove their staying power, playing one year at the Las Vegas Hilton before their move to the Rio in 2001 and the Sahara in 2006.

"It was the same thing in Vegas, people didn't know what we were about," Joe Scinta said. "But they got it now."

Most of the comedy routines the Scintas effortlessly perform onstage were born from live ad-libs.

"We play around. If it works and gets laughs we hone it," Scinta said. "The music is the only thing we rehearse." □

The Scinta story begins when Frank and Joe Scinta were 4 and 9 years old. The precocious boys inherited two guitars from their grandfather, who mysteriously chose them to care for his musical legacy from dozens of grandchildren. Frank Scinta became a prodigy of sorts, skillfully playing classic, Old Country Italian songs. He appeared on the Merv Griffin show in 1967 as well as the Ted Mack amateur hour (nationally syndicated) and Jerry Lewis telethon, taking the stage with Lewis.

Chrissi Scinta joined Frank, singing at local church functions, etc. Joe hit the road with his own band, moving to Hawaii.

The brothers performed in a little bar in Kenmore, N.Y., occasionally inviting their baby sister to sing onstage. They eventually traveled to Playboy clubs around the country.

Joe Scinta met his wife at the Buffalo Playboy club and married Mary in 1986. Frank married his wife Jackie in 1982, who he met dancing to a Michael Jackson song at a Buffalo, NY, dance club.

Chrissi married the band's soundman John Milkie, now their manager, in 1986.

The brothers built a following and continued travelling the country.



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