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¡FELIZ CUMPLEAÑOS, TONY!



¡Feliz Cumpleaños, Tony!

TOLEDO, June 29, 2017: *Antonio Rios* still likes to daydream, but he doesn't have to. As a successful boomer, he is living his dream of running his own advertising, marketing, and Latino entertainment agency.

The 1979 Defiance, Ohio high school graduate produces—along with his lovely wife, *Maryori*—Spanish language TV show, "*Voces Latinas*."

"I love entertainment and I love the fact that I'm helping people" commented Rios recently from his new studio in Toledo. "Whenever I go out and people say, 'Hey Tony, wow! Love your show, man. Keep up the great work,' I find it so gratifying." "It airs every Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 7 p.m. on the Buckeye CableSystem Channel 69."

"Our main purpose on the show is to showcase the Hispanic/Latino community. There are no other local TV shows that do this in northwest Ohio." Topics covered are the arts, cooking, health, business, educational programming, and entertainment [Rios' favorite beat].

In the more than 20 years that Rios has been doing the show he has taken it on location from Cancun, México, to South America more than a half-dozen times.

Over the course of his travels Rios has observed the Latino communities in North, Central, and South America (and, of course, the Caribbean) have dramatically different customs than in the United States.

Rios' apparent ease on camera and behind the mic comes from his own professional music experience. He says being on stage performing and talking to many different people over the years broke him in.

He did a lot of interviews and has appeared on Midwest radio shows back in the day when he was promoting his CD, "*Tony Rios Estoy Enamorado De Ti*." He also played trumpet for the University of Toledo Jazz and Symphony band and sang for a variety of *Tejano* bands—including his own—traveling all over the Midwest. Recordings include "*El Bad Boy, Tony Rios*," with songs such as "*Cariño*" and "*La Implorare*."

He also helped coordinated the *Midwest Tejano Music Awards and Fest* from 1991 to 1997 and co-produced numerous radio programs with *Rico Neller* and *La Prensa*. Rico said, "*Tony is the greatest! We have worked together since 1991. ¡El es mi hermano! ¡Feliz Cumpleaños mano!*"

The Rios family tree is abundant with singers and musicians on both sides. He recalls there was always music playing and his parents were big fans of the 1950s and 1960s music as well as the Latino artists.

"My mother would always sing to me as a child and teach me songs in Spanish. My father loved playing the guitar and the accordion. Both of my uncles played instruments. On weekends we would go and visit my grandfather who lived in the country in Erie, Mich., and there would be musicians there singing and playing their guitars. I just happened to love music as a child and it has stayed with me."

Ever since his Colombia-born wife, *Maryori Miranda de Rios*, came aboard, she has added much appeal. She has a prominent role as the program's main hostess and assistant film editor.

Maryori does the show almost completely in Spanish. She is from Barranquilla (where Singer/Recording Artist Shakira & Sofia Vergara a Colombian actress, comedian, television hostess, and model are from).

Rios likes to keep up on the latest technology and showcase all that the show has to offer by way of his website: voceslatinas.com www.

He also produces weddings and quinceañeras and deejays for weddings, quinceañeras, restaurants, and night clubs.

"I love to work and keep busy. It has brought a lot of joy into my life and has taught me a lot about life in general," he says, "...and I dream a lot!"

Partial Source: *Angela Assaf of the Defiance Crescent News, March 30, 2008.*



Tony con Maryori y también Rico de La Prensa.