

tion of the system is provided by a pair of 6.5-inch speakers mounted in custom-fabricated kick panels up front. The result is more than enough sound for cruising down Santa Monica Boulevard — even with the top down.

Inside, Bill Dunn Upholstery replaced the original white vinyl with black leather, accented with baseball-style stitching, befitting Tony's hobbies. Carrying the baseball theme even further: in the trunk, you'll find a Louisville Slugger autographed by basketball great Michael Jordan, who you might recall had a brief career in major league baseball after his first retirement from the hard court. The final accent, for future road trips, is a set of Rawlings luggage, covered in supple baseball glove-style hides.

Whenever one gets up close and personal with an *Overhauled* creation, one can't help but be amazed that the projects come out as flawlessly as they do



## Fast Friends

Over the course of a season of *Overhauled*, Chip Foose, along with co-hosts Chris Jacobs, and Adrienne Janic, are involved in as many as 20 individual builds. Foose describes each one as being special: "Not only do we build great cars, but we build relationships. They become like family. We always say they've joined the *Overhauled* family."

*Overhauled*' Tony's LeMans was a bit extra-special for Foose, though. "I actually got to help steal Tony's car," Foose explained. "I don't often get to do that."

In fact, Foose further explained that he helped mastermind the prank: "When we got to his Mom's house, I noticed that the gate was loose. We thought we were going to have to break it. But I realized it was just gravity keeping it in place. We

— even with all the effort from Chip, the A-Team, the numerous sponsors, and, of course, those sneaky insiders.

And Tony, through the efforts of

Charlie, Rob, his Mom, plus the entire cast of *Overhauled* has a one-of-a-kind LeMans in which he can enjoy time off between acting gigs.

## Specifications

**VEHICLE:** 1966 Pontiac LeMans Convertible

**OWNER:** Tony Todd

**ENGINE:** Butler Performance 462 c.i. Pontiac, 500hp; Edelbrock Performer RPM heads & intake; Holley 770 Street Avenger Carb; Comp Cams XE268 camshaft & valvetrain; Ross Pistons; Eagle Connecting Rods; MSD Ignition

**TRANSMISSION:** Bowler Performance TH400 3-speed auto

**SUSPENSION:** Hotchkis Performance

**BRAKES:** Baer Brakes

**BODY PANELS:** Original Parts Group (OPG)

**PAINT:** BASF

**BODYWORK:** Lanzini Body Works

**WHEELS:** Foose Design 18-inch

**TIRES:** BF Goodrich G-Force, 225ZR-18

**UPHOLSTERY:** Bill Dunn Upholstery

**SOUNDPROOFING:** Dynamat

**STEREO:** Boston Acoustics installed by J&G Customs

**BATTERY:** Optima Batteries

**LUBRICANTS:** Royal Purple

**EXHAUST:** Performance Stainless Steel

**MISC:** Summit Racing

Chip Foose (left) with Tony Todd at Chip's drawing table.

wound up working that into the prank, but with Chris (the host) taking it off the hinges and jumping on it."

Tony's build-up was a bit unusual, too, in that it wasn't family members that initiated the *Overhauled*. In Tony's case, his friends Rob Goldenberg and Charlie Sheen conspired to make it all possible, and that caught Foose's attention, too.

"Having both Rob and Charlie involved as the insiders made this really special," Foose told *Pontiac Enthusiast*. "Tony's a great friend to them, and this was their way of saying thanks."

As for the car, when we asked Foose how he thought Tony's LeMans turned out, he was emphatic: "The only problem with this car is that it's not mine. And I love that it's a convertible. I really love convertibles." Foose then laughed and added, "And I just love the unicorn in the trunk! That makes the car for me."

But Foose's interest goes way beyond the LeMans' retractable top: "Pontiac's styling always seems to be a bit better than Chevy's. They're just beautiful cars. I guess I'm really a Pontiac guy at heart." Perhaps that explains why seven

*Overhauled*' cars have been Pontiacs — three GTO's ('67, '69 and '70), two Firebirds ('68 and '69), and two LeManses (Tony's '66 and a '68) — and why Foose was able to readily recount stories of them.

Perhaps most importantly, to Foose, though, is the new friend he's made in Tony Todd. "Tony has become a great friend and has helped out with several *Overhauled*' builds, now. He even played a 'producer' on an upcoming show, helping with one of the pranks."

In fact, we caught up with Tony and Foose as they clowning around together on the *Overhauled*' set while filming the show's third "live" build at the annual SEMA show in Las Vegas. Tony entertained the crowd and gave away prizes to those who could correctly answer *Overhauled*' trivia questions, while Foose signed countless autographs for the fans who hung out until the wee hours to watch the build and witness the car being revealed to its owner.

Of course, when two Pontiac enthusiasts meet, it's hard to imagine how they wouldn't become fast friends. ■