

# Barney Glazer's "HOLLYWOOD HOTLINE"

The first time Dennis Safren, handsome, sensitive young Hollywood actor stepped in front of a network television camera he received star billing.

When I first met this talented Jewish boy, I told his publicity man, "He has to become a star. In all my years in this business, I've never met anyone who wanted to be a star as much as he does."

Safren co-stars with Efram Zimbalist Jr., in "The Coffee House," segment of CBS-TV's "Insight" series showing in various cities during the next few months.

Asked if luck entered into his selection for the leading role, the 23-year-old newcomer laughed and replied, "Definitely, but only after I had crammed with every possible moment of study, rehearsal and little-theater work."

Safren feels fortunate that he recently concentrated on sight reading. "When a casting director gave me a script and asked me to sight read, my experience really paid off. Sight reading doesn't permit time to delve into the part and grab its full meaning. I picked up the script cold, cleared my throat and started reading."

When told that he had the party, and a co-starring role at that, Dennis didn't fully grasp what had happened. "The full import," he said, "really hit me when my very own makeup man started following me around the CBS set. That's when I knew I really had it made."

Did crew and director, knowing this was his tv de-

but, treat him like a novice?

"Director Lamar Caselli handled me like a star, not a beginner. He offered little advice, leaving me pretty much on my own. Efram Zimbalist also accepted me as his equal.

"For the first time, I came face to face with television's demands for heavy concentration. Everything around me kept moving - mike, camera, booms, lights and dozens of objects and persons. I had to concentrate hard to close my mind to all except my scene. It was a real effort."

The new young star received the opportunity of his life - his first death scene and his first crying scene in his initial role. "It was a long scene. I was talking to Zimbalist, just out of camera range. This time, the set was completely quiet.

"I have no problems with tears. I don't have to pluck a hair from my nose or use onions. I felt there was nothing more wretched than the eastside gang leader I portrayed, with only rags on his back, shot by a policeman and lying on the floor of a drugstore. All I could think of was that this unfortunate boy was the lowest form of humanity."

When Dennis finished his scene, Director Caselli hugged him and everyone applauded. He looked at Zimbalist. He was crying, too.

"The crew congratulated me. That was the supreme compliment. Technicians have no responsibility to the cast. Union men, they usually watch with deadpan faces, do their jobs, pack up and go

## EPIC EXTRAVAGANZA AT TROP

Stars, specialty acts and principals gathered from 10 countries brighten the international attraction of the Folies Bergere Centennial, the epic extravaganza at Hotel Tropicana.

Bridging the magnificence of Folies Bergere production numbers are exciting personalities and acts from England, Romania, Australia, Poland, the United States, Germany, France, Scotland, Yugoslavia and Sweden.

Billed as the stars of the show are the beautiful Baker Twins, England's singing-dancing greats, selected by Anthony Newley for London and New York presentations of "Stop the World, I Want to Get Off" and more recently starred in "Man in the Moon."

Also from England are The Herculeans, a team of six comedy acrobats, one of six specialty acts that include The Spider, Romania, a unique adagio act performed on a vertical "web;" The Mecners, Poland, one of the world's outstanding balancing-tumbling teams;

The Bennetts, Australia, contortion-adagio artists; Susan Saren, Germany, a trapeze star who will swing out over the audience; the Florence and Frederic dancers, France, longtime specialty production team in the Tropicana Folies Bergere; and Roger Ray, the USA, comedy star of the show.

Principals in the princely

home." His role completed, Safren said his farewells and received his final compliment from the director. "He gave me no advice for my future. I felt that no advice meant he had no criticism."

These were the satisfying rewards for an ambitious youngster who worked harder in Hollywood than he played. He knew what he wanted and prepared himself determinedly, methodically and thoroughly.

Given his long-awaited opportunity, the intense young Jewish actor with a classical sensitivity took full advantage of the role and laced his brief career with early artistic fulfillment.

production include Nicole Nancel, France, the prima donna; Patricia La Forge, Scotland, lead nude; Vassili Sulich, Yugoslavia, lead male dancer; The Merlín Singers, USA; and three announcers, Corinne Vidal, France; Monica Lind, Sweden; and Felicia Atkins, Australian beauty who has almost a decade of entertainment history at Hotel Tropicana.

Key production figures in the Centennial edition are headed by Michel Gyarmathy, Hungary, director-producer of the Folies Bergere in Paris and Las Vegas; and include Tony Azzi, Lebanon, producer of the Tropicana show; Hermes Pan, USA, choreographer; and Ray Sinatra, USA, musical director.

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