

WASHINGTON DATELINE

by Trude B. Feldman

ISRAELITE'S WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

After four months of intensive involvement in covering the Sirhan Sirhan trial in Los Angeles, Las Vegas proved to be the perfect stop-off on my way back to Washington. Besides the relaxing atmosphere and fascinating shows here in 'Vegas', it was nice to meet friends and acquaintances from all over the globe, who are either vacationing in this 'wonder land', or starring in a show at one of the hotels.

The Desert Inn and Country Club unveiled one of the most dazzling shows of all time last night.

"Pzazz '70 and All That Jazz.....Baby," which opened on the Desert Inn stage, marked the beginning of a new genre in resort entertainment.....The Super Spectacular.

Frank Sennes, the famed showman, produced the unique extravaganza. It was created, staged and directed by Donn Arden. Sennes and Arden are the dynamic team who combined talents to present other Las Vegas shows which broke all records: "Pzazz '68;" editions of "Hello America;" and the Lido revues.

New innovations in costume design were revealed in "Pzazz '70." See-through fabrics were daringly employed. Designer Bill Campbell said that he is using thousands of yards of fabric, ranging from traditional weaves of silks, satins and velvets to the new vinyls, metal cloths and Cellophane synthetics.....to develop a post-contemporary look in both the courturiere and theatrical sense.

Campbell also disclosed that he used pheasant feathers in "Pzazz '70'." "I went directly to South Africa to obtain the particular kind of ostrich trim required for the Spectacular's finale," he said.

As to the scenic designs, expert Harvey Warren said that the Desert Inn had to add a new half-million watt transformer to its electrical substation to carry the tremendous power drain required to mount the 15,000 lights and 25 miles of wiring that was required in the opening scene alone.

Additional special effects in "Pzazz '70' were achieved through the use of fog machines, bubble machines, waterfalls, black lights, endless drops, stage lift eleva-

and development. Showman Frank Sennes is probably the only one who could have produced an extravaganza of this magnitude. His hallmark is spectacular on the most lavish of scales with massive regiments of beautiful showgirls and production numbers that are breathtaking in execution and costumes. And only Donn Arden could create, stage and direct this extraordinary attraction into the most lavish extravaganza in the annals of stage entertainment -- one which will set a standard that may never be duplicated.

"Our presentations are expensive shows -- for those with expensive tastes," Arden said. "If a person goes for the best, then this is the show for him".

"Pzazz '70' is slated to run a year -- at least!



LORNA JACOBS, ONE OF THE EYE CATCHERS IN "PZAZZ '70' AT DESERT INN.

PZAZZ '70
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ed and directed by Donn Arden surpasses anything ever presented in a night club, anywhere. Lavish costumes designed by Bill Campbell, beautiful girls, exciting dance routines, breathtaking scenery and imaginative special effects highlight the gigantic stage presentation.

No theater on Broadway is large enough to accommodate the massive Harvey Warren sets which are so brilliantly lighted that a new half million watt transformer had to be added to the hotel's electrical sub-station to carry the increased power output. Thirty stage hands are required to position the motorized scenery in addition to a control room technical staff of 10 handling the lights and special sound mixes.

From the wildly psychedelic opening number "Las Vegas Today" featuring beautifully gowned girls amid the splendor of 18,000 lights to the concluding salute to New York's famed Cotton Club, "Pzazz '70' is a memorable look at America's great musical tradition "turned on" by the music of Jimmy Harbert and the lyrics of Leonard Adelson played by the Carlton Hayes orchestra.

The Hollywood salute to the "Golden Girls," another of the spectacular productions features a flying ballet of lovely showgirls against a background of pink and gold while a cascade of water comes thundering down from two giant waterfalls. Colorful fountains add a crowning touch to this picturesque setting. The scene is capped off by a multi-colored array of birds descending on stage as the curtain closes.

A beautiful blue background complete with soft candlelight and rich velvet drapes is the setting as "Pzazz '70' visits "San Francisco." The opening scene is an intimate cocktail lounge which smoothly changes to reveal a penthouse on Nob Hill overlooking historical San Francisco Bay. "Blue" is the romantic theme and is featured in most of the exciting musical arrangements. The entire scene has the elegant air of a sophisticated cocktail party. It's a regal moment as lovely girls, one with a trio of live lavender poodles, display breathtaking creations from the couture world of high fashion which were flawlessly executed by Berman's of Hollywood.

The fifth major scene within the spectacular production is a feature on "Chicago" during the flamboyant roaring twenties which is triumph of set design by Harvey Warren coupled with the imagination of the famed "Arden touch." Opening with a street setting in the speakeasy district with ladies of the evening and gin peddlers, the scene expands to reveal a greater projection of the street. Later all of the buildings transform in a triple revolve and the scene becomes the interior of the speakeasy with a floorshow in progress. This dramatic scene is highlighted when "Pretty Louis" meets his doom at the hands of rival gangsters. The number closes with the speakeasy engulfed in flames and rocking with a volley of explosions as the backroom still explodes.

Additional special effects for "Pzazz '70' are achieved through the use of fog machines, bubble machines, black lights, endless drops, unusual waterfalls, elevators, skirms, projections and a number of new devices.

Also included in the stage presentations is a salute to some of the musical greats of the past. The musicians honored are Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Les Brown, Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman.

Spotlighted throughout the show are some noted featured acts including comedian Will Jordan, The Little Steps, Monroe & Whiting, Marvin Roy, and Montego.

Planning for "Pzazz '70' began a year ago. Blueprints for the stage presentation started before the Desert Inn's highly successful "pzazz '68" closed early this year.

An elite team of talent that reads like the "Who's Who" of show business was required to spend months in planning



DIRECTOR DONN ARDEN, LEFT, AND PRODUCER FRANK SENNES DISCUSS THE DESERT INN'S NEW SUPER SPECTACULAR, "PZAZZ '70 AND ALL THAT JAZZ.....BABY!" WITH LARRY MALDONADO, ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER.

tors, skirms, projections and pyrotechnics.

Warren said the public sees so much nostalgia in movies and television today that he aimed for a present-day atmosphere in this show. The opening and finale are his favorite scenes, he added, "because they're the most exciting. The balance of the show is really a satire on the past."

The original music and lyrics for "Pzazz '70' were composed by Jim Harbert and Leonard Adelson. Every instrument in the orchestra has its own microphone to achieve special sound mixes for their music.

All in all, "Pzazz '70'" at the Desert Inn promises to smash all Las Vegas records.....and millions of people will get the chance to see the rare musical show since it'll be on stage for well over one year.

Frank Sennes' illustrious career as a dynamic producer spans two decades. Among his most notable productions were the two editions of "Hello America," which ran for three years at the Desert Inn. The show not only won the hearts of the public but also several patriotic awards, including an unprecedented Congressional tribute in 1965 when a unique accolade was inserted in the Congressional Record. After a stirring salute delivered on the floor of the Congress by Congressman Thomas P. O'Neill at the suggestion of House Speaker John W. McCormack, one of the many FIRST in Frank Sennes' brilliant career became history.

Donn Arden has been in show business for over 30 years, and his special brand of entertainment has thrilled audiences all over the world. Arden's association with the Desert Inn is in itself something of a show biz saga.... he has been directing all of the hotel's stage productions for 19 years....the very day the Desert Inn opened its hotel and country club.

In an interview during the 6-week rehearsal period at the Desert Inn, Arden said that this spectacular will truly entertain the audience. "Producing pure entertainment has been my business," he said, "and I'm sure this extraordinary extravaganza will change the whole concept of show biz in Las Vegas.

"The singers really sing," he added, "the dancers really dance. The show is rich in color, rich in inventiveness and rich, decor wise."

All in all, Arden finally conceded that "Pzazz '70'" is by far his best production, and "will be the best show I've ever presented."

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