

LAS VEGAS

SHOWCASE

THE VEGAS BAG

by Mark Tan



company of the rock opera "JESUS CHRIST, SUPERSTAR" for its legitimate theater? What happened to the revue that was supposedly set to re-open the Castaways showroom in early July? Is there a movie company here filming a flick called "The Godson"? If so, where and for whom and starring who? Is "Vive Les Girls" now closing at the Dunes in December, and a brand new edition opening at the Aladdin in early '72?

THE LONG, HOT SUMMER...The "Hip Hypnotist" PAUL COLLINS returns for four weeks at the Landmark Nighthawk Lounge, opening August 10. Comedian SAMMY SHORI won't be with LEVIS this time around when E.P. opens August 9 at the International. THE UNUSUAL WE, a longtime noisecore group of singers-dancers, join PAUL ANKA and JOEY HEATHURTON at Caesars Palace in August. DIONNE WARWICK always such a smash here plays the Sands opening July 14. Racy, riotous RUSTY WARREN resumes her sex education seminars July 15 at the Flamingo Casino Theater, meantime don't miss the electrifying ST. PAUL SISTERS, featuring Italian-Filipino songstress RINA GHILOTI who's being hailed the new Janis Joplin. Broadway sensation MELBA MOORE makes her Vegas debut as guest star of DAVID FROST opening August 11 at the Riviera. And currently at the Landmark, Hawaiian volcano DICK JENSEN headlines his all new "Aloha Hawaii" revue featuring top talents from the 50th State. JULIE LONDON returns to the Tropicana on July 23 in the Blue Room.

WEEKEND WANDERERS...BOB NEWHART and ABBE LANE at the Desert Inn. WAYNE NEWTON and his revolutionary new THEATER IN THE ROUND presentation at the Frontier Hotel. ELMARIE WENDEL, GARY COSTER, BARRY MONROE & THE COLOMBOS star in the Strip's most lavish and popular lounge revue, "VIVE LES GIRLS" at the Dunes Persian Room. MARINA MAUBERT & MARTIN GAVIN are the stylish Adagio team co-starring with Top Banana TOMMY MOE RAFT in "The Wonderful World of Burlesque" at the Silver Slipper.

CELEBRITY CIRCUS...ROBERT GOULET rushed up from his own show at the Frontier to join JOEY BISHOP filling in for DANNY THOMAS at the Sands. Danny's injured hand required surgery. ABBE LANE fell on stage at the Desert Inn when her heel caught in the rut between the stage and the D.I.'s descending stage. Hours later, Abbe's back was

in such pain she required extensive heat treatments to go back on for her second show. Abbe's doctors still haven't determined the extent of her injury. RUTH BUZZI dashed into town for a brief visit and showstopping. Ruth buzzed into her longtime New York chum, ELMARIE WENDEL, now starring in the Dunes "Vive Les Girls", and over to the International to see NANCY SINATRA. L.A. publicist PAUL COOPER (from Rogers, Cowan and Brenner pr) doing his usual impression of a "dynamo in action" for his client ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK at the Riviera. With crowds to the rafters and turnaways in the hundreds, Paul's been kept busy handling international press requests, fan club junkets, etc. etc. JAY MILLER of NBC's "Monitor" radio show in for a quick trip to interview ABBE LANE, BOB NEWHART, JOHNNIE RAY, BOB GOULET and TONY BENNETT for the more than 1000 station network. SAM SCHULMAN, executive board chairman of the NATIONAL GENERAL CORPORATION flew in on the NGC private jet to attend the Bob Newhart-Abbe Lane opening at the Desert Inn.

STRIP HOPPING...A new "must visit" on your Vegas visit, the Flamingo Hotel's new SPIRITASY restaurant. It's a totally unique dining experience, the food is superb, the prices are more than reasonable (\$6.95 is the menu topper for a huge New York steak), and the atmosphere is warm, comfortable and colorful (the captains wear pin stripe suits and big carnations and take you to your table with a machine gun). Already a performer's favorite hideaway, RIP TAYLOR, NELSON SARDELL, SERGIO FRANCHI, JERRY VALLI, JOHNNIE RAY and MR. & MRS. PIRRY LEFT ABBE LANE among the stars popping in between their shows. Speaking of the Flamingo, don't forget that BRICK WALL-OF-PIERSON'S "BOTTOMS UP" opens in the Casino Theater on July 10 for more of its usual afternoon hilarity. JOHN DAVIDSON joins PHYLLIS DILLER opening July 28 at the Riviera. It'll be John's first Vegas appearance in more than two years. THE RHYCARDS, who starred in the Dunes "Casino de Paris" show for more than a year, return next at the beautiful new \$25 million UNION PLAZA HOTEL, downtown. THE ESTABLISHMENT, closing at Caesars Palace, return to the International with PIRRY COMO on July 19. A former member of that group, MATT VERNON, opened last week as the singing star of LINE RINAUD'S new "Love In" at King's Castle in Tahoe.

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