

LAS VEGAS SHOWCASE

THE VEGAS BAG

by Mark Tan



ATTENTION ALL SHOW PEOPLE... RIC MITCHELL'S 9TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN HOP will be held on Saturday, October 30 at the Stardust Hotel Auditorium. Tickets, going on sale this week, will be \$6.00 in advance, \$8.00 at the door. The midnight to dawn gala is open to the public. This year's frolic will have a lot of surprises including presentation of the first annual Las Vegas Entertainment Awards, as voted by a panel of 100 judges and the voting membership of AGVA, and a specially produced revue for a one time only performance at the Hop. **ABBE LANE, ANN-MARGRET, CONNIE STEVENS** and **ROBERT GOULET** are among the stars being invited to sit on the judge's panel to select this year's best, biggest, brightest and most original masquerades. Tickets are on sale at Carnaby Street Boutique and Dance Art Studios, and through various representatives in all the Strip shows.

STRIP CHATTER... ANN-MARGRET, opening Sept. 29 at the Las Vegas Hilton, has offers on top of offers to choose from when she closes here. AM is still the top contender to portray the fabled Scarlett O'Hara in the musical version of "Gone With The Wind" on Broadway...The Las Vegas Hilton, incidentally, may also be getting at least "40 CARATS" of ZSA ZSA GABOR in time for Christmas. But for ZZ, 40 is just slightly more than a trinket...**JOHNNY MATHIS**, now at the Sahara, will be guest artist with the St. Louis, Cincinnati and Philadelphia Symphony Orchestras prior to his November Waldorf Astoria engagement...**VIKKI CARR** plays one of the shortest Vegas dates in recent memory...five days opening Sept. 30 at Riviera...Beautiful blonde actress-comedienne

DYANNE THORNE, who used to be one of the stars of "Minsky's Burlesque" at the Aladdin, is back in town to plug her latest film "Point of Terror" now playing here. Dyanne's planning to move back to Vegas while she and songstress **JEANNIE THOMAS** put their pretty heads together on a new music and comedy act. The busty beauty is also taking time out from her promo chores to visit "good friend" **TRINI LOPEZ** now at the Desert Inn....

LOUNGE HOPPIN'... **STEVE ROSSI & SLAPPY WHITE** are talking a continuous three month engagement at the Sahara Casbar Theater for next summer. The Rossi and White Show would be expanded to include a line of dancers and special guest stars...**VIN CARDINAL**, the Trinidad sensation now at the Flamingo Casino Theater, just signed a quarter of a million dollar recording deal with Herb Alpert's A&M Records...By day, they're the band that backs Breck Wall-Joe Peterson's runaway afternoon favorite "Bottoms Up", but at night they're called **THE DIXIE JUANA JAZZ BAND** and they play at the Aladdin Sinbad Lounge. Leaders **CHUCK DIAMOND** and **VINCE ABATIELLO** say they named the band because they "can play all the Dixie they wanna" when they're not bringing back easy listening smoothies like "In My Solitude"...Philadelphia songstress **LORETTA ST. JOHN** is back at the Top of the Mint.

COMING ATTRACTIONS... Famed femme impressionist **LYNNE CARTER** makes his Las Vegas debut at the new Royal Las Vegas casino on Convention Center Drive. Carter will open his special engagement of in concert performances on October 1; he'll do two shows a night. For Carter's engagement, there'll be a \$5.00 all-you-can-drink tab per person...Lovely **JULIE THOMPSON** reigns as the Official Hostess of the upcoming Halloween Hop. The statuesque blue eyed brunette is currently appearing as one of the Ashton Girls in Barry Ashton's "Wonderful World of Burlesque" at the Silver Slipper...Mike Todd's "STAR & GARTER" is reportedly just about set for a New Year's debut at the Landmark Hotel. Curvaceous **TINA LOUISE** is being wooed to star in the role originally created by **GYPSY ROSE LEE** on Broadway...Greek singer **BILLY DARE**, last here at the Slipper, and just back from a most successful tour of Greece and a long stopover in Hawaii, has a brand new nitery act to show to Vegas talent buyers. Dare's impromptu and uninhibited style of entertaining has

made him an "in crowd" show biz favorite and it's time he got his own Las Vegas room ala Shecky Greene. Dare would be one of the few entertainers who could keep Caesars Palace Cleopatra's Barge afloat...**JOHNNIE RAY** returns to mainroom status after more than ten years, opening October 8 at the Fremont Hotel. Ray's last two appearances here at the Desert Inn Lady Luck Lounge were SRO sleeper hits....

BITS & PIECES... **JACQUELINE DOUGUET** and her adagio partner **BARNARD CHAREY**, and former "Vive Les Girls" lead nude **PAT GILL** have been set as stars of the new "VLG" opening in Mexico City in mid-October...**FRANK GORSHIN** signed a new two year pact with the Sahara. Frank's currently appearing at the Las Vegas Hilton...**BOTTOMS UP** hits its 10,000 performance on October 2. The long running laughathon is now in its 14th year making it the longest running show of its kind in show business...Is Playboy Magazine's **HUGH HEFNER** in a deal to take over the long shuttered Hotel Bonanza???...**DICK JENSEN** returns to the Landmark Hotel - volcano and all - for a November 10 opening...Irish lassie **TERRY SULLIVAN** sings her songs and plays piano these nights at the popular hideaway, the 19th Hole at the Gold Club Motor Hotel. Miss Sullivan is making her Vegas debut after many seasons in far away islands like Nassau, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas...**JULIET PROWSE** is just about inked to return to the Desert Inn to reopen the Crystal Room after its Dec. 7 to 27 holiday closing....

WEEKEND WANDERERS... **JOAN RIVERS** and **JACK JONES** are the "must see" duo of the week, now at the Sands...**THE FABULOUS ENTERTAINERS**, who opened both the International and King's Castle, are now bowing at the Sahara Casbar with their zany brand of comedy and music...**RIP TAYLOR** stars as the Number One inmate at the Aladdin's "Funny Farm"...Brilliant **JOHNNY MATHIS** is at the Sahara.

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