

★ LAS VEGAS ★

'SHOWCASE' OF THE STARS

Mark Tan
IN
LAS VEGAS



'ROUND TOWN.....Delicious ANN-MARGRET with her eight male partners is starring in her all new nitery revue at the Las Vegas International-Hilton. A-M's tv special of "Dames at Sea" will be airing in November and her "Carnal Knowledge" flick is doing record bustin' biz both here and abroad. Mrs. Roger Smith is in top form, looks gorgeous and is dazzling the Hilton audiences nightly with her singing-dancing-comedy versatility...Speaking of ANN-MARGRET, rumors in the east have her and GEORGE MAHARIS set to co-star in the musical version of "Gone With the Wind" on Broadway next year...Female impressionist LYNNE CARTER opens October 1 at the Royal Las Vegas casino-showroom; two perfs nightly at 10 p.m. and 2:15 a.m. Singer-impressionist JIM BAILEY returns to the Flamingo Casino Theater on October 14. So far, their only overlap is that both stars "do" Mae West and Phyllis Diller in their acts. Bailey's biggies are Streisand and Garland; Carter's 'don't miss' are Dietrich and Davis...PHYLLIS DILLER and JOHN DAVIDSON are reteamed at the Riviera in January. Last time here, together, the Diller-Davidson duo played to capacity houses...Speaking of duos, Don't Miss the Sands' latest surprise package of handsome JACK JONES and hilarious JOAN RIVERS. Joan goes directly into rehearsals of her Broadway-bound play "Fun City" - she'll star with a soon to be announced cast and is also co-author of the new comedy - when she closes here. If all goes well with box office and critics during the break-in, "Fun City" will open on Broadway in late December...FREDDY MANJON, coproducer and dancing star of his and MANOLO TORRENTE'S "Latin Fire '72" now at the Thunderbird, is back to work after more than ten weeks out because of illness. Freddy's medics advised a long layoff, then a gradual resumption of his energetic terping chores. Welcome back!! "LFF" incidentally is negotiating for a Far East tour in early '72 that would include Japan, Hawaii,

and Australia.....
HAVE YOU HEARD.....that "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes", "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers" and "Forty Carats" are in various stages of discussion re a Las Vegas outing??...THE COLOMBO BROTHERS, last here as stars of the Dunes' "Vive Les Girls", open this week with CAROL CHANNING's all new nitery revue?...that JOHNNIE RAY will be bringing his trio of Johnnie's Friends with him when he headlines at the Fremont Hotel's Fiesta Room opening October 8?...that the Riviera Hotel will keep its Versailles Room open through December with DEAN MARTIN, DON RICKLES and THE 5TH DIMENSION set for engagements, but that the Desert Inn will close its Crystal Room from Dec. 7 to 27th and the Frontier its Music Hall from Dec. 9 to 22nd.....

TICKETS NOW ON SALE for RIC MITCHELL'S 9TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN HOP. At the same gala, presentation of the first LAS VEGAS ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS. Ballots have been sent to every working AGVA member, press, hotel execs, etc. For non-working AGVA members, pick up your ballot at the AGVA office. The first ballot determines the top six nominees in more than a dozen categories; a second ballot goes out in early October to select the final winners. But to vote in the second go-round, you must have voted in the first balloting. Added to the judges' panel for the Halloween costume awards: RIP TAYLOR, DONN ARDEN, BARRY ASHTON, DAVE VICTORSON, BILL MILLER.....

NOTES TO YOU.....Radio-tv-newspaper personality JOE DELANEY begins a new series of celeb interviews and talk at the Royal Las Vegas Casino Showroom this week. Joe's new program, on KLVV Radio, will begin at 1-1:30 a.m. until 3-3:30 a.m. Slated for first week guests: JOHNNY MATHIS, JOAN RIVERS, JACK JONES, TRINI LOPEZ, NIPSEY RUSSELL, LYNNE CARTER...BOBBY DARIN'S Darlip, Inc. is listed as one of the principals of the new stock offering here. The stock issue is for expansion of Jay Tell's LAS VEGAS FREE PRESS and tentative plans include a third daily newspaper. Copies of the Offering Circular are available from Priestley & Pace Securities, Inc. Shares are available for \$1.50 per share...ETHEL KENNEDY wasn't the only Ethel who was expected in for ANDY WILLIAMS' Caesars Palace bow. Pennsylvania heiress ETHEL DE QUEVADO flew in just to see the popular Andy - perform; the latter Ethel has never met the singer...JIMMY DURANTE, MITZI GAYNOR, "BOTTOMS UP", and ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK are among the featured stars atypical of the Las Vegas Entertainment Scene as viewed in a special December issue of the state pub, NEVADA HIGHWAYS & PARKS all-Las Vegas edition...Speaking of La Gaynor, she'll open October 14 at Harrah's Reno; before & after the Harrah's date, Mitzi will be taping her co-starring guesting on PERRY COMO's upcoming NBC tv special. Also a tv special, Mitzi's "South Pacific" airs Thanksgiving Eve.....

WEEKEND WANDERERS.....VIKKI CARR in a short-short engagement at the Riviera; Vikki closes Oct. 4, LIZA MINNELLI opens Oct. 5...RIP TAYLOR, soon to be seen on the Dean Martin tv show, stars in "Funny Farm" at the Aladdin...TRINI LOPEZ is at the Desert Inn.....

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS



Don Tell

(Continued from page 1)

Hotel's Congo Room. I heard he was coming a few weeks ago and didn't say anything to my wife. News travels quickly in this town and before I could say dinner for two, she had plans to go see her Mathis. What could a husband do? I called up my mother for advice. She said I'll make the reservations. Go and have a good time. We went and we did.

His opening songs included, "The Morning Of My Life" and two Carpenter tunes, "Close To You" and "We've Only Just Begun." As usual, he mixes standard tunes with contemporary very well and went on to deliver "April In Paris" and everyone's current hit, "You Got A Friend." In typical Mathis style, he delivers the song in most cases better than the original artist which puts him in a class all by himself. Songs that followed included "Day In And Day Out" and "It's Too Late."

As he began his medley (and what a medley this man has), tingles of nostalgia pass through the mind. We danced to many of his oldies when we were just courting over ten years ago. His biggies were: "Twelfth Of Never," "Wild Is The Wind," "Sonny," "It's Not For Me To Say," and some wonderful show tunes that he is best known for, "Tonight, Tonight," "To Dream The Impossible Dream," "Wonderful Wonderful" and, of course, "Maria."

Mathis is certainly a guy who made it with his own style. He doesn't belt out tunes like some stars, but makes love to them. His fluttery, high-pitched voice has made fans out of millions. His albums are the most consistent sellers in the easy-to-listen-to class of all performers.

As I looked around the packed Congo Room, it was obvious to see that there were many other husbands in my predicament. They just have to play second fiddle to Mathis.....

We can't forget to elaborate on the funny man in the show, Nipsy Russell. Nipsy is too much. We first saw him about 12 years ago when he played a small but very popular club in Harlem called The Baby Grand.

Some of his lines that stand out in my memory at his current gig at the Sahara are, "They tell us we don't live in the ghetto anymore, now they call it Central City."

Nipsy broke up the audience when he told us that he doesn't protest Howard Hughes anymore. "He might buy me and send me back to Africa and I won't trade my Caddy in for an elephant."

When you think Nipsy has run out of material, he goes into his nightly dance lessons, teaching us the latest hip steps. I call him the black Arthur Murray of today. Nipsy shows you the Pony, Boogalo, Funky Walk and Funky Chicken. He tells you how the step began and then makes each one look as easy as your morning shower. The time he spends on stage is important. He delivers the usual racial messages but in a way that you want to kiss him. He is a very funny and most intelligent man.

Don't miss the Mathis-Russell combination at the Sahara.

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