

# OF THE STARS

## ENTERTAINMENT TRIP AROUND THE WORLD



DICK MCINNES

London reports that DEBORAH KERR will play her first West End role in 29 years when she opens in Frank Harvey's new play, "The Day After the Fair" at the Lyric on October 4. With the exception of a recent one night charity appearance there in a TERENCE RATTIGAN tribute, Miss Kerr hasn't appeared in a London show since she played Ellie Dunn in "Heartbreak House" in 1943 at the Cambridge Theatre. That should stop the rumors in Hollywood that she has been tapped to play Blanche Dubois to JON VOIGHT's Stanley Kowalski in a revival of "Streetcar Named Desire" here at the Ahmanson.

SANDY BARON gives the performance of his life at the Aquarius Theatre here in Hollywood as LENNY BRUCE in "Lenny." He's on stage practically every second and more than deserves the standing ovation he got on the second night (that's when I caught it.) He is not only funny doing Bruce's material which is classic, but is great in interpreting Lenny's anguish. I'm not quite sure why TOM O'HORGAN has to screw around with every show that he does and why insists on inserting such madness as Lenny and Rusty (his wife) playing Count and Countess Dracula in their wedding scene or having the judge and jury in native costumes or puppets 30 feet tall although I'm sure HE knows why. I feel that the audience shouldn't have to spend all that time figuring it out and when you have a story as dramatic as Lenny Bruce's life, it really doesn't need all that crap (and that's exactly how Lenny would have said it, folks!!!)

JACK BENNY has been chosen by the National Conference of Christians and Jews for their 9th Annual Humanitarian Award and he will be given a testimonial dinner at the Century Plaza Hotel on September 25. JOHNNY CARSON will emcee and we can only hope that he doesn't repeat his famous ad lib act from the last dinner he emceed or at least that they will sit him closer to the men's room.

The powers that be at Paramount just don't seem to know what to do with their oldie but goodie classic, "Sunset Boulevard." First they did an outline for a daytime soap, then rumors

came along that it might become a Broadway musical and now they are thinking about making it a musical TV special. Whatever they do with it, wouldn't you love to see GLORIA SWANSON repeating her role as Norma Desmond?

A MOVIE TRIP..... "DELIVERANCE" is bound to become the picture that you love to hate. I hated the picture but I know damn well that it is one of the year's finest films. Obviously the film got to me and any film that makes you feel such ambiguous feelings has to be directed by good man and JOHN BOORMAN fits the bill plus the photography by VILMOS ZSIGMOND is out of sight. Four men decide to spend their summer vacation canoeing down the wilds of the Chattooga River which etches the northernmost strip of the Georgia-South Carolina state line.

Lewis (BURT REYNOLDS) is everyman's man, full of vim and vigor and maybe trying just a bit too much to live up to his own masculine image. But the way, it is the nudie cuties' best performance to date. (OK, Burt, that's the last pun I'll make on the Cosmo bit.) JON VOIGHT as ED, a sensitive version of masculinity great and will no doubt snag another Oscar nomination in next year's Oscar derby. Good support is given by NED BEATTY as Bobby and Ronny Cox as Drew which adds to the film's unrelenting realism. The trials and tribulations of these four are unbearably realistic as we go step by step down the river.

### MARTY ALLEN AT FLAMINGO

Marty Allen, a one-man repertory company of lovable lunatics, returns to the Flamingo Hotel main showroom Aug. 31 for a four-week stay with singing star Leslie Uggams.

Since launching his career as a single after a successful partnership with singer Steve Rossi, Allen has achieved new fame in nightclubs with a rollicking act in which he portrays a series of wildy wacky characters.

Marty's "Rogue's Gallery" includes Dr. David Dirty, who wrote "Everything You Wanted To Know About Sex But Were Afraid To Ask Your Kids;" Commander Irwin Soggy, a reluctant aquanaut; Richard Ravishing a Gay Liberation Front presidential candidate; and Joe the Hardhat, the quintessential middle

### IRVING BENSON RETURNS TO SILVER SLIPPER

Old fashion burlesque is the hallmark of the Silver Slipper which currently features Barry Ashton's "Wonderful World of Burlesque" starring the chief of slap-

stick comedy, Irv Benson. Benson, remembered by millions as the "Man in the Theatre Box" (Sidney Shpritzer) in the Milton Berle Show for many years, returned to the Silver Slipper this week much to the delight of his fans who remembered his capacity performances here two years ago.

Benson a longtime Las Vegas favorite has appeared at the Sahara, Dunes, Thunderbird, Frontier and the Silver Slipper in the past. His TV credits include Hollywood Palace, Mery Griffin Show, Johnny Carsons "The Tonight Show," Milton Berle Show, plus numerous

national commercials. As a frequent guest on the tonight show, Johnny Carson has played straight man for Benson which is one of the highest compliments that can be paid to a comedian by a fellow comedian.

Twice nightly and three times on Saturday Barry Ashton's "Wonderful World of Burlesque" delights audiences with over an hour of constant entertainment, including some of the funniest vaudeville acts ever presented. Showtimes are 10:30 p.m., 1:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m. For only \$3.95 you can see the show and drink all you want.

Tragedy, sadism and adventure wait for our foursome and believe me, they clash head on. Like I say I hated it but it's a great flick.

CBS reports that MARLENE DIETRICH will start taping a special based on her highly successful one woman show in London next month for screening here on January 13. They also report that SANDY DUNCAN will tape her first special for February 11. That is quite a parlay for CBS. Marlene to Sandy.

Do have a good trip this week. Cheerio. (Must be time for me to get back to London)

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