

LAS VEGAS SHOWCASE



been signed to make their New York mainroom bow with BARRY ASHTON'S "CATCH A RISING STAR" now at the Americana Hotel's Royal Box??? And that former "Lido de Paris" production singer and member of the singing group The Kids Next Door, STEVEN DAWES will be featured lead singer in Ashton's new Americana Miami revue, "VIE PARISIENNE" opening Oct. 13???

BITS & PIECES—Former teen idol FABIAN has a brand new merry act ready to go and will be breaking it in on the road before giving his agent an okay to go on a Vegas bow. JOAN RIVERS and her husband EDGAR ROSENBERG happily reconciled after a brief but friendliest of separate vacation separations. Joan goes next to Westbury to costar with PAUL ANKA, then back to Beverly Hills' YF THILL CLUB for a month. Her nearest Vegas date, so far, will be with TRINI LOPEZ in March at the Desert Inn. Taking a "working" vacation to her native France, "Lolies Bergeres" star AUDREY ARNO has dates in Paris to star in her own telly special and to cut some new sides for RCA. Mlle. Arno returns to the Tropicana at month's end. NAMI KELL AND HER POLYNESIAN

RIVAL return to the Stardust Lounge this week. Nalani, who opened Del Webb's new Kuidima Hotel in Honolulu earlier this year, is now in her 14th year as a Stardust attraction. Another popular Hawaiian star, ARTHUR LYMAN and his exotic "Quiet Village" music open this month at the Maddin's Sinbad Lounge (Oct. 17). Speaking of Hawaiian-type stars, whatever happened to THE RHYCARDS, THE SUN SPOTS, THE SOCIETY OF SEVEN, DICK JENSEN, JOHN ROWLES, ALIX McANGUS, THE INTERNATIONAL SET, etc.?? The 50th State's No. 1 superstar, DON HO, opens Oct. 26 at the Flamingo, and THE SURFERS are currently at Cleopatra's Barge at Caesars.

WEEKEND WANDERERS...NANCY SINATRA & ARTE JOHNSON at the Riviera, with HUGH LAMBERT... PHYLLIS DILLER & JERRY VALE at the Sands...BRECK WALL & JOE PETERSON'S afternoon laugh hit, "BOTTOMS UP" at the Flamingo Casino Theater...HARRY BELAFONTE & WOODY ALLEN at Caesars Palace...JACQUELINE DOUGUET and company at Circus Circus in "LOVE CONNECTION".....

STRIP CHATTER...MANOLO TORRENTE & FREDDY MANJON, the popular producers-stars of the Thunderbird's long-running "Latin Fire '73" have a very special surprise coming up when they present for the first time ever in Las Vegas, the international Afro-Cuban singing star CELIA CRUZ. Miss Cruz, a huge star in her European and South American concert appearances and recordings, will appear with the "Latin Fire '73" revue for one night only, Dec. 2. Miss Cruz will be in Las Vegas expressly to gueststar the following night, Dec. 3, at the annual "FIESTA DE SANTA BARBARA". Manolo and Freddy's yearly get-together for all their strip pals, press, performers, etc. The all-night Fiesta featuring Spanish food, music and dancing, culminates in a dawn folk mass, Don't Miss It! Latin bombshell, CHARO, has also been set as special guest for the New Year's Eve performances of "Latin Fire '73". Charo's appearance last year was a complete sell-out. Speaking of sell-outs, the Union Plaza's limited engagement of Broadway smash "CABARET" has been doing capacity-plus biz at the downtown showroom. "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum", another big hit both on Broadway and at the L.A. Music Center, will follow "Cabaret" at the Union Plaza, pending final contract negotiations currently underway. FLORENCE HENDERSON returns to the Strip during a television hiatus for a quick date at the Sands, opening November 29 with DON ADAMS. Newcomer CODY MARSHALL who's been in and around show biz for all of a year, is already making great strides opening this week at the Flamingo Casino Theater. Cody, a former college student at Penn State, gave up his studies to form his own group and headline at New York's most in discotheque, Shepherd's. On the heels of that success came his first single disc for Wizdom Records called "A Needle in a Haystack", and now his Vegas bow. Cody was recommended to Flamingo entertainment director Bill Miller by current Flamingo headliner SERGIO FRANCHI. On Sergio's enthusiastic report, Miller signed Marshall and his group.

STAR GAZING—Riviera superstar TOTTIE FIELDS has the biggest advance sale in the history of the Valley Music Theater in Woodland Hills, California. Tottie opens later this month, and then heads "home" to Vegas for her return date at the Riv. with VIC DAMONE opening Nov. 8. ANN-MARGRET, recuperating nicely from her 22-foot fall at the Sahara Tahoe last month, and is hopeful of getting her medics okay to return to work and the Hilton Hotel on November 28. Ann-Margret rumors that her injuries would cause permanent damage to either her singing or dancing talents are completely false. Husband ROGER SMITH said she would be as good as new when all the bandages, stitches, etc. were removed, and slimmer than she's been in years because of the very restricted diet and difficulty she's had in eating while her jaw has been wired. MILTON BERLE has agreed to join just SAMMY DAVIS JR. and star presenters like JULIE PROWSE, MYRON COHEN, DON HO, NORM CROSBY, HARRY VALL, BOB NEWHART, etc. etc. at the 2nd annual LAS VEGAS ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS to be held October 26 at the Las Vegas Hilton Theatre Royale. Milton opens Oct. 24 with ABBE LANE at the Desert Inn.

IS IT NEWS...that MARTY ALLEN will have MAMA CASS ELLIOTT as his special guest star when he returns to the Flamingo, opening February 22?? Miss Elliott has not played Vegas for several years; her last engagement, at Caesars Palace, lasted one night before she cancelled out because of sudden illness...that movie star singer JAMES DARREN has been set to return, to the Sahara, with BUDDY HACKETT in December?? Darren made his debut with Buddy a few weeks ago (for a special four day engagement) and the bosses were so pleased with his performance, they immediately signed him for several more dates into 1973...that two more up and coming talents, namely singer JIM SCHICK (featured with GINGER ROGERS in her just ended tour as "Mame") and RITA GRAHAM (formerly a vocalist with HARRY JAMES) have



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