

★ LAS VEGAS ★

'SHOWCAST OF THE STARS'

Mark Tan
IN
LAS VEGAS



STRIP CHATTER.....A limited number of tickets are still available for the Saturday, Feb. 10 celebrity luncheon/fashion show "HAVE A HEART - SAVE A HEART" for benefit of the Nevada Heart Association. The gala will be held at the Frontier. Chairwoman of the event, ELEANOR ROTH GRASSO, and her committee of Vegas residents like TOTIE FIELDS, MRS. JERRY VALE, MRS. PAT COOPER, MRS. SERGIO FRANCHI, PAMELA MASON, etc. will co-host the fashion parade starting at noon.....Another most worthy cause will be the purpose of a special late, late performance of "French Love Connection" at the Circus Circus Hippodrome Theater on February 23/24 at 2:30 a.m. The cast and crew of "Connection" is donating their talents at the extra third show that night to donate the proceeds to a former member of the cast stricken with multiple sclerosis. PLEASE attend!!!.....On Wednesday, February 13, a special afternoon performance at the Hilton Casino Theater (at 3:00 p.m.) will be given to showcase the talents of a new group from Green Bay, Wisconsin, called THE VACANT LOT. The six man ensemble, with lead vocalists BILL HUGHES & CHUCK MYKING, is flying in especially for the one time show.....Impressionist LYNNE CARTER, returning to the Vegas scene on March 1 will share the bill at the Flamingo Casino Theater with THE MILLS BROTHERS and NELSON SARDELLI.....Drawing big crowds of music lovers and romantic reminiscers, THE FOUR ACES, are now at the Sahara Casbar Theater; their first Strip appearance in some four years. Original Ace, LOU SILVESTRI has been joined by TONY ALESI, JOE GIGLIO & FRED DIODATI recreating that famous Four Aces sound on hits like "Tell My Why", "Love is a Many Splendored Thing", etc., etc. Added starters at the Casbar this week are JOHNNY TILLOTSON (who opened Feb. 7), and zany tv favorite and Strip regular RIP TAYLOR opening Feb. 12.....

LOUNGE HOPPIN'.....Best new sound in town belongs to the x-traordinarily talented X. S. BAGGAGE, now in their Vegas debut at the Hilton Casino Theater. Under the leadership of former swimming ace JAY SCHLESINGER (who gave up training for the Olympics to pursue a fulltime musical career), the Southern California group (based mainly in Long Beach and other beach cities) features the singing talents of sultry LEISHA KARY (remembered for her long stint in Palm Springs niteries with her own group Leisha, Land and Life) and the multi-talented musicianship of BOB McALLISTER (bass guitarist), DAVID SILVERS (vocalist-drummer-composer/arranger), ROGER DOUGLAS (guitar), ART GREENE (singer-dancer-trombonist who headed his own group, Togetherness, and formerly worked with the Watusi Wing Ding & Watusi Scandals revues), JOE BANKS (a former member of the Watts 103rd Street Band, now lead trumpet for X.S.), and PLATO BROWN (who's appeared as either a percussionist or dancer, or both with stars like REDD FOXX, RAY CHARLES, LOU RAWLS, THE JACKSON FIVE & SMOKEY ROBINSON). All members of the very musical minded family write songs, play several instruments, sing, dance, and are devoted to becoming the number one show band and recording group in 1973!.....At the Union Plaza Theater Lounge, baseball great MAURY WILL is debuting with his new group.....At the Landmark's supper club Zella Lehr, who was just too talented (and sexy) to stay on as a regular in television's "Hee Haw" is bowing her new niter act. From 10 p.m. on, it's dancing in the mainroom to the music of Canada's top show band, "Joy!".....And high above at the Sky Top Rendezvous is delicious DIANE ELLIOTT as featured songstress with the Charlie Schaffer group....B.B. KING, just closed at the Hilton lounge, opens February 24 as special guest star with ANN-MARGRET returning to the mainroom.....

CELEBRITY CIRCUS.....Bushy haired MARTY ALLEN, who pops up on just about every channel at least once every week, will be seen this month on the Bob Hope Special, The Hollywood Squares, Mike Douglas, The Vin Scully Show, and an upcoming "Honeymoon Suite" (to

mention a few of Marty's tube guestings). Marty and his new co-star CASS ELLIOT open February 22 at the Flamingo.....Planning a hard race against incumbent Sam Yorty for Mayor of Los Angeles, councilman-candidate TOM BRADLEY takes time out of his hectic political schedule to host the wedding reception of his daughter Lorraine this weekend. Bradley and his 40-strong guest list are making a special trip to Las Vegas to see DIANA ROSS in her strictly SRO return engagement at Caesars Palace.....ISAAC HAYES, who had offers up and down the Strip, picked the Sahara to make his official debut. Hayes will open Feb. 28, following a one week appearance of JOHNNY CARSON at the Congo Room..... PEARL BAILEY returns to the Strip after a year long absence to headline next at the Sands, opening March 14.....Apriling in Las Vegas: ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK (at the Riviera April 11), PETULA CLARK (at Caesars Palace).

JULIET PROWSE (at the Desert Inn), WAYNE NEWTON (at the Frontier).....

JUST ASKING, BUT HAVE YOU HEARD.....that MARC ANTHONY will leave the "Casino de Paris" at his contract's end and headline spot will go to songstress KITTY KOVER with BARRY MONROE getting a featured slot to do his song and dance act???.that the RIVIERA HOTEL is STILL supposedly being sold, and this time the buyers are owners of another nearby Strip hotel???.that the MGM GRAND HOTEL will open in the fall of '73???.that a new revue starring THE RITZ BROTHERS & BEN BLUE is being offered to Strip hotels and may have found a long term berth for an early spring opening???

WEEKEND WANDERERS.....NOT TO BE MISSED: Motown's DIANA ROSS who's "live and in person" performances are more than equal to her muchly acclaimed (and sure to be an Oscar nominee) portrayal of Billie Holiday in "Lady Sings the Blues"....OKLAHOMA continues til Feb. 19 at the Union Plaza, with a new show policy of Sunday afternoon matinees and no Sunday midnight performances.

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