LAS VEGAS 'SHOWCASE OF THE STARS'

Mark Tan IN LAS VEGAS

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT.....the October 30 Beaux Art Hallowe'en Ball to be held at the Circus Circus Convention Center, starting at 11:00 p.m. Announced, so far, to be guest judges at the all night frolic have been MITZI GAYNOR, MEL TORME, JACKIE GAYLE, FORREST DUKE, SUZANNE VEGAS, JAMES DARREN, SIG SAKOWICZ, and The First Lady of Hallowe'en herself, PHYLLIS DILLER. Judging starts at 3:00 a.m. (Oct. 31). Tickets are now on sale, $5.00 in advance, and $7.00 at the door (and after 3:00 p.m. Oct. 30)....the star-studded parade of nominees and presenters at the 3rd annual LAS VEGAS ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS to be held Friday, Oct. 26 at the Tropicana Superstar Theater. On hand for the presentation of awards in seventeen categories, (as voted by more than 1200 performers, stars, press, hotel and entertainment executives) will be a couple of million dollars worth of talent including host SAMMY DAVIS JR., presenters-nominees LIZA MINNELLI, ANN-MARGRET, SHECKY GREENE, SONNY & CHER, STEVE LAWRENCE & EYDIE GORME, WAYNE NEWTON, JACKIE GAYLE, RIP TAYLOR, and THE TRENIERS, guest presenters MITZI GAYNOR, JAMES DARREN, MEL TORME, MYRON COHEN, PHYLLIS DILLER, MARILYN ROBERTSON & ROGER MINAMI (the latter the 1972 winners as Female and Male Performers of the Year), AUDREY ARNO, and entertainment columnists JOE DELANEY, FORREST DUKE & RALPH PEARL. Admittance by reservation only; call the Tropicana Superstar Theater for information.....

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AND TALKING ABOUT.....the scintillating syncopation of MEL TORME, now at the Thunderbird with an all new show, and special guest star, JACKIE GAYLE as hilariously outrageous as ever....the not to be missed Miss MITZI GAYNOR in the premiere engagement at the Tropicana Superstar Theater. Mitzi's new revue, featuring A CAST OF THOUSANDS, is introducing the tropicana's new showtime policy of performances at 10 p.m. and 1 a.m. MARK ATKINSON, MARK HESS, DENNIS HOPKINS, WAYNE DUGGER, MICK DOWD and delightful MUFFY HENDRIX are among the versatile and exuberant cast of singers-dancers....the Las Vegas return of one of the Strip's most durable and popular musical comedy spoofs, Don McPherson's adaptation of Henry Fieldings "TOM JONES" opening in January at the Holiday Casino. "Tom Jones" had one of it's longest romps in Vegas in engagements at the Desert Inn long-gone Lady Luck Lounge, and the long-gone showroom of The Castaways Hotel....the splurge of movie making in and around Las Vegas. In addition to the highly publicized sequel to "The Godfather" filming at the Tropicana Hotel, several other major productions are currently underway here, including JERRY SCHAFER'S "HORACE & FRED" starring BRECK WALL (producer-star of "Bottoms Up") as one half of the new comedy team series a'la "Road to...." and "Abbott & Costello in....": "THE LEGEND OF EL PATRON" shooting in Hidden Valley starring NELSON SARDELLI and PEPPER DAVIS; and JOHN HARRIS' production of "THE PAGAENT" starring SUZANNE VEGAS.....the Vegas return of the incredible JIM BAILEY, who started his zoom to stardom with a quick one week engagement at the Flamingo Casino Theater. Within a matter of weeks, Bailey was the absolute toast of the town with stars galore pouring into the Flamingo to see his uncanny and eerie re-creations of JUDY GARLAND, BARBRA STREISAND, MAE WEST and PEGGY LEE. After several engagements at the Flamingo, Jim was signed for guest appearances on Carol Burnett and Lucille Ball's tv shows, and was off to staggeringly successful engagements from New York to Honolulu. Jim, who opens at the Thunderbird Hotel on November 8, will be making his first Strip appearance in more than a year. Bailey recently released his first album for RCA. The "real" Jim Bailey is a multi-talented singer-comedian-impressionist from Philadelphia who started out as a singer and was told by talent buyers he needed a gimmick to break thru the swarm of up-and-coming young male singers. Using his talent for mimicry and acting, Bailey hit on the gimmick of presenting his famous ladies; the gimmick with the gimmick is that Bailey looks exactly like the star he is presenting and using his own voice to sound exactly like the star both singing and talking, and has every mannerisms, posture, walk, etc. down to an unbelievable "t"!!.....

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STRIP CHATTER.....JAMES DARREN, back at the Sahara with his superstar mentor BUDDY HACKETT, just returned from his debut engagement at the Talk of the Town in London. In addition to causing a rush of nitery offers in England and the continent, Jimmy also picked up a pile of movie scripts for shooting in '74. First one he's considering is a detective thriller to be filmed in London in February co-starring JOAN COLLINS.....SHECKY GREENE & JOEY HEATHERTON, now duo-ing at the Riviera Hotel's Versailles Room. The beautiful Miss Heatherton is making her Riv debut with this engagement, but better hurry, Joey date is a short two weeker, ending Nov. 8 when Shecky is joined by DAWN til Nov. 13.....Singers-dancers VICTORIA ROCHE and BOBBI TAYLOR are the newest addition to the RICHARD CURTIS & COMPANY revue. Victoria was formerly with the Jades & J'Dorables, Bobbi, recently with the "Minsky's" show in Miami was also a regular on the John Byner Comedy Hour tv-er....PAT CABA, dancer in the current "Casino de Paris" leaves that show on Nov. 1 to start rehearsals for the new Donn Arden spectacular opening in January at the MGM Grand. Patrick will also be featured in the currently filming "Legend of El Patron"....DANE WEAVER'S "SUNFLIGHT" musical ensemble joins ROBERT GOULET opening this week at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco.....COOPER NEAL, a former member of "Bottoms Up", rejoins the cast at Circus Circus. BRECK WALL is currently heading the new second company of "BU" at Harrah's Reno with MARCIA LEWIS, NANCY BOND, JEANNIE LINERO, ROBERT NEAL, etc.....Dancer STEVIE DANIK joins her husband CARY LA PINA for a Mexico City holiday when the "Casino de Paris" goes on its December hiatus. Cary is currently starring in the new edition of "Bare Touch of Vegas" in Mexico.....Chicago singer BOB STRADA in town for a few days of showstopping and showbiz huddles with Vegas performers for a new show he will be starring in and co-producing for a December to June tour of niteries in the mid-west and south.....

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HAVE YOU HEARD.....that the MGM GRAND HOTEL now plans to open on Dec. 5 with DEAN MARTIN in the Celebrity Room, and JACKIE GAYLE & BOBBY RYDELL in The Lion's Den????....that IKE & TINA TURNER return to the Stripscene and the Flamingo Hotel opening Dec. 13????.....that TOTIE FIELDS will headline Nov. 30-Dec. 15 at the Dunes Hotel and is the hotel's first name star attraction in some ten years??....that LINDA LOVELACE (who's name keeps popping up) is now supposedly making her Vegas debut at another Strip hotel?? Last time this rumor started, it was at the Tropicana Superstar Theater, but that report was quickly squelched! .....that ANTHONY NEWLEY (whose name and music is currently being honored by both Mel Torme at the T-Bird and Mitzi Gaynor at the Tropicana) returns in person to Caesars Palace on Nov. 1???....that the incomparable MARLENE DIETRICH is being wooed back to the Strip, and talk is that Marlene will appear with her former accompanist BURT BACHARACH and most probably at the Tropicana Superstar??....that the Silver Slipper plans to return to a revue format of entertainment and is currently mulling over some two dozen show presentations?? ....that Hawaii's Number One superstar DON HO returns to the mainland and the Flamingo Hotel for his annual fall appearance, opening Nov. 15??.....

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WEEKEND WANDERERS.....THE BEAUX ART HALLOWE'EN BALL, Oct. 30 at Circus Circus Convention Hall....MITZI at the Tropicana....Comedy Geniuses At Work: BUDDY HACKETT at the Sahara, SHECKY GREENE at the Riviera, JACKIE GAYLE at the Thunderbird, PETE BARBUTTI at the Sahara Casbar, MYRON COHEN at the Flamingo.....

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TILLOTSON SINGS WITH DEAN AT D.I.

Entertainer Johnny Tillotson enjoyed a unique surprise when he visited fellow modern country artist, Jimmy Dean, now appearing at the Desert Inn's Crystal Room.

JT was asked by Jimmy to join him in singing one of Tillotson's first million sellers — "It Keeps Right On A-Hurtin". This song, originally written by JT, has since become a classic in the modern country and popular music fields. The song has been recorded by over 89 artists, including, Elvis, Dean Martin, Bobby Darin and Eddy Arnold to name a few.

"It was really an honor for Jimmy to ask me to sing along," said Tillotson. "He is a great performer and valued friend."

You can catch the Johnny Tillotson show, including many new releases at the Sahara Hotel's Casbar Theater. JT will close an exciting three week engagement on October 30th. The versatile entertainers play twice nightly Thursday thru Sunday with three shows slated for Monday and Tuesday.

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