

★ LAS VEGAS ★

'SHOWCASE OF THE STARS'

Mark Tan
IN
LAS VEGAS



PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT...the brilliant ARGENTINIAN GAUCHOS, winners of the Las Vegas Entertainment Award as the Production Act of the Year, now featured in the Dunes "Casino de Paris". The Gauchos are currently preparing a very special concert of Latin stars, music, folk dances, and South American legends, to be presented to their showfolk friends and fans sometime in early '74. The Gauchos who recently scored such a bit on the "NBC Follies", will also be appearing at the Nov. 9 St. Jude's Nite of Stars at the Hilton Hotel...the world premiere performances of a new rock operetta called "JUDAH MACCABEE" written by TOM ALLBERT & STEVE MAYNARD, scheduled to debut at the Tropicana Superstar Theater opening Dec. 20. "Judah" will be presented in afternoon performances only. The new musical, combining contemporary rock with classical operetta play form, is being produced by ALAN LEE; the Tropicana premiere will be limited to permit the first company of "Judah" to leave on a coast to coast theater tour prior to a mid-1974 bow on Broadway. Casting calls in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco are currently underway by the producer and authors...the zaniest impressionist in town, direct from San Francisco, "BASHKA" who will be making his Las Vegas debut as "Carol Channing" (and others) on Nov. 9 at the Royal Las Vegas Casino Showroom in B.J. ALAN'S "FABULOUS FAKES" revue. Bashka recently made a special guest appearance at the annual Beaux Art Hallowe'en Ball... the



CARROLL & DALY IN THE LANDMARK SUPPER CLUB FOR THEIR THIRD ENGAGEMENT THIS YEAR. THE HANSOME IRISH LADS PRESENT A LARGE SELECTION OF SONGS IN FRENCH, ITALIAN AND HEBREW--A SPIRITLY SEGMENT OF IRISH NOVELTY TUNES--AND A GOOD SELECTION OF TODAY'S POP TUNES. NEW SHOWTIMES FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT--6 & 8 P.M. THIRD SHOW ON SATURDAYS.

mid-November (maybe) showcase presentation of the new solo act of MARILYN ROBERTSON, singer-dancer-comedienne, and winner of last year's Female Performer of the Year award. MARILYN & HER FRIENDS (the latter being Miss Robertson's gallery of special characters) will be showcased at a Strip hotel for talent scouts, buyers, agents, managers, and performers.....

STRIP CHATTER...Dancer JIMMY ROGERS, currently in the "Lido de Paris" at the Stardust, has been signed by producer BARRY ASHTON as lone male dancer in Ashton's new "This Is Burlesque" opening December 28 at the Aladdin...PHYLLIS DILLER and special gueststar ice skating champion PEGGY FLEMING will be following the all new "BEST OF ANN-MARGRET" revue at the Tropicana Superstar. Ann-Margret opens Dec. 11. Phyllis in January...Get your tickets now for the annual NITE OF STARS to benefit the St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Boulder City, to be held Nov. 9 at the Hilton. Producers-directors FORREST DUKE & JOE DELANEY have just about every major star in town set to appear including PHYLLIS DILLER, ABBE LANE, FRANK GORSIHN, WAYNE NEWTON, BOBBIE GENTRY, GLEN CAMPBELL, ANTHONY NEWLEY, JACK BENNY, PEARL BAILEY, FRANKIE LANE, BILLY ECKSTINE, JACKIE GAYLE and MYRON COHEN...ABBE LANE, now at the Desert Inn with her splashy musical comedy revue, features dancers BERT WOODS & DAVID

RODRIGUIZ. Abbe's "Blues in the Night" medley is the luscious Lane at her sultriest, sexiest, and most beautiful...Dancer-singer SAL ANGLICA, just back from a tour with the Juliet Prowse Show, joins PATRICK CABA, RICH RIZZO and RICK MILAN among other local talents, in the new Donn Arden spectacular for the MGM Grand Hotel. Rehearsals start this week for the new show scheduled to open in the Grand's Ziegfeld Theater on Dec. 27. Popular musician ANTHONY "TONY" COSTA has been set as musical director for the new Arden revue. Costa was most recently the baton master at half a dozen of the Union Plaza's productions, vocal coach at the "Folies Bergere", and assistant musical director at the Desert Inn Hotel...JIM NABORS has been set to replace the just postponed Sonny & Cher opening at the Sahara Hotel on Nov. 13. Nabors just closed at Harrah's Reno and wasn't scheduled to return to the Congo Room until mid-74.....

NOTES FROM ALL OVER...DANE WEAVER'S "SUNFLIGHT", currently appearing with Robert Goulet in San Francisco, talking about a Strip debut for early '74...Busty blonde actress-comedienne DYANNE THORNE (last here with the Tim Conway Show at Caesars) leaves this week for several weeks in Stockholm, Sweden. Dyanne will be costarring in a new movie, and will be playing the part of a royal castle ghost-ess!! Dyanne no sooner finishes that, takes a short European holiday, then it's off to another film role in an even more exotic locale, Istanbul!...THE FIRST LADY OF NOSTALGIA, songstress-actress ANNE SIMMONS is finally getting the medics okay to resume her interrupted career. Miss Simmons has been sidelined for several months, and is anxious to get back in harness with her extraordinary one-woman presentation of the moods, manners, morals and music of the 1920's and '30's, Anne's original concept, long before nostalgia was in vogue, was to playact the part of a speakeasy songbird using songs and dialogue to tell an entire life story; highlight of her show was the very dramatic "Maman", a song rarely heard in nightclubs and until the recent appearances of MEL TORME at the Thunderbird, never heard before in Vegas. Miss Simmons uses the song, a powerful anti-war piece, as a dramatic highlight in her on stage character's life. Anne's new act was written, rehearsed and staged from her sick bed. She'll break the new act in some clubdates in and around Los Angeles before accepting a Vegas debut date; those who have seen the new act and earlier versions of the concept, have compared it to Bette Davis, Susan Hayward or Anne Bancroft playing the life of Helen Morgan! Quite a comparison!.....

CELEBRITY CIRCUS...Tonight Show" announcer ED McMAHON debuts his cafe act, as a singer and comedy storyteller, at the Tropicana Superstar opening Nov. 23. Ed plans to commute DAILY to the NBC Burbank studios and fly back each evening for his Tropicana shows. Ed's using the current weekends to try out new bits and songs in some special guesttings at L.A. organizations dinner shows...

WEEKEND WANDERERS...the extraordinary JIM BAILEY, singer-actor-impressionist, now in his debut engagement at the Thunderbird...DON'T MISS: JACK BENNY & PEARL BAILEY at the Tropicana; ALAN KING & ANTHONY NEWLEY at Caesars Palace...GLEN CAMPBELL at the Hilton with "The Happiest Gal in the U.S.A." DONNA FARGO...IRV BENSON, NANCY AUSTIN, and JACKIE "Miss Velvet" HOUSTON are the featured stars in "This Is Burlesque" at the Aladdin; TOMMY MOE RAFT, SUZETTE SUMMERS and JANET BOYD in "Minsky's Burlesque" at the Fremont, and the Las Vegas bow of Hawaii's ALEXANDRA THE GREAT (48") at Paul Perry's new Cabaret.....

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