

★ LAS VEGAS ★

'SHOWCAST OF THE STARS'

Mark Tan
IN
LAS VEGAS



STRIP CHATTER.....RICHARD CURTIS, the talented newcomer who broke into show business just last year, and currently starring in his own musical variety Richard Curtis Show, showcased this week at the Landmark Supper Club for a possible future booking. Curtis who comes from a showbiz family (his mother is cafe hypnotist-witch Sandra Sennes) heads out next for a twenty week tour which will take him to Chicago's Dirty Helens, Detroit's Ice House, and the Hyatt House in Dallas.....Handsome blond actor MICHAEL HAYNES who has appeared in dozens of films including last year's "Chrome and Leather" (which he also wrote) and tv's recent Karen Valentine starrer for a Movie of the Week, outdistanced all his movie efforts by being chosen to be the now-famous Winchester Man. Haynes, on a brief holiday from a continual round of personal appearances as the Winchester rep, made a special trip to Vegas to catch his good buddy MARTY ALLEN at the Flamingo Hotel. Haynes may be familiar to some Vegans; shortly after college, Michael was a stunt man in Donn Arden's spectacular "Hello, America" revue which ran at the Desert Inn Hotel. The Winchester Man had heads turning with instant recognition when he ventured to the Riviera to catch the incredible Liza Minnelli and later in the a.m. over to see Fabian at the MGM Lion's Den (Michael was Fabian's stand-in in a couple of films including Fabian's "A Bullet for Pretty Boy Floyd").....Hilarious femme impressionist LYNNE CARTER and CHARLES PIERCE are currently packing the San Francisco bistro scene, at the new Cabaret and Gold Street clubs respectively. Carter, who last appeared here at the Flamingo, is making his S.F. debut, and Pierce, with his outrageous parody on Jeanette MacDonald hasn't played the Strip for several years except for a brief special appearance more than a year ago at the annual showfolks' Hallowe'en Ball.....KITTY (Hello Dolly) KOVER gets her nightclub act together again for a special appearance at the top hotel in Aruba. Kitty, former star of the Dunes' "Casino de Paris", now makes her home in Las Vegas.....Dancing to the Big Bands comes back again. This weekend (Sun., Feb. 17), singer DICK HALE will be the host-emcee at the new and popular Las Vegas Club (on Flamingo Road) for a 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. gala featuring the Tony Celeste Orchestra and drop-in musicians from Strip hotels.....

ABBE LANE, JACK CARTER AT DI

Abbe Lane and Jack Carter headline in the Desert Inn's Crystal Room for one month, beginning Tuesday, Feb. 12th. The engagement marks the first time the entertainers have been paired on the same bill together. The ravishing red-haired Abbe Lane has become one of the nation's most popular and versatile nightclub entertainers. Never content to rest on her past laurels, Abbe is constantly adding new dimensions to her stunning revue-style act. She is a multi-talented performer who can dance as well as sing. Trained

as an actress as a child, she has appeared on TV comedy and drama such as "Man from U. N. C. L. E.," "Flying Nun," "F-Troop," "Burke's Law, and "Wild West." Sharing the DI bill with Abbe Lane is comic Jack Carter. Jack, known as an actor, comic, singer, mimic, dancer, minstrel, pantomimist, emcee and, most recently, television director, today tops his previous peaks of prestige and entrance into the exclusive, summit circle of actor-comedians which includes Bob Hope, Danny Kaye and Sammy Davis.

CELEBRITY CIRCUS.....MIKE DOUGLAS tapes two weeks of his daily show, starting March 4 from the Las Vegas Hilton. JONATHAN WINTERS, HELEN REDDY and SAMMY DAVIS JR have been set as Mike's co-hosts.....SIG SAKOWICZ, now a permanent Las Vegas after more than 25 years in Chicago and WGN radio and tv, premieres his new celeb talk show this Sunday at 4 p.m. on KLAS-TV (Channel 8). WAYNE NEWTON is Sig's first guest on the new "SUPERSTAR SHOW". Sig is also heard daily on KLAV Radio here, and weekend on WGN, Chicago.....Playboy HUGH HEFNER's favorite Playmate, singer BARBI BENTON, makes her Strip bow at the Hacienda Hotel in the MAFY NUTTER SHOW opening Feb. 28.....RODDY McDOWELL in for a visit with his chum JOAN RIVERS at the MGM Grand Hotel.....Manager SID LIPTON in for chats re his First Lady of Nostalgia, songstress-actress ANNE SIMMONS. Miss Simmons who has been seriously ill for almost the past year, is now well on the road to recovery and anxious to resume her nitery career.....Choreographer AL GOSSAN, in from Chicago, and now living and working in Los Angeles. Gossan, who now has three shows running simultaneously in The Windy City, is getting a foothold in L.A. with dance classes starting this month at the Coronet Theater and Rehearsal Halls on La Cienega.....Actor-singer GEORGE MAHARIS (Route 66) makes his first appearance in Las Vegas this September at the MGM Lion's Den. Maharais is currently breaking in his nitery act at Mr. Kelly's in Chicago.....Singer-impressionist JIM BAILEY, with dates firmed at the Thunderbird for February (he opens the 21st) and April plans a long uninterrupted holiday between T-Bird stands. Bailey's last year of concert and club dates have kept him on the road from New York's Carnegie Hall to Honolulu's Pagoda Hotel.....MARILYNN ROBERTSON who recently showcased her one woman "Me and My Friends" revue revamping her show for nitery dates in San Francisco, Boston, and New York later this spring. Marilynn also has some very interesting offers from a top television producer prepping a new summer series.....

LIFE UPON THE WICKED STAGE.....MARTY ALLEN, at the Flamingo, has had a pair of co-stars for this, his first outing on his new contract. Marty shared his first two weeks with ever popular DELLA REESE. Della closed one night and opened the next, kicking off her new multi-week pact with the Flamingo in the Casino Theater. Allen's second half gueststar is CASS ELLIOT - his costar from last summer's hit outing. Cass, incidentally, has been signed to star in her own musical series replacing the Sonny & Cher show this summer for CBS-TV. Cass starts taping the summer series in April.....Donn Arden's monumental spectacle "HALLLELUJAH, HOLLYWOOD!" now has a tentative opening date at the MGM Grand's new Ziegfeld Room of March 5. The show is ready but the room construction isn't. Crews are working round the clock to finish the beautiful new showroom on schedule to start preview showings of the huge spectacular.....The Tropicana's Superstar Theater, shuttered since last month, re-opens March 1 with the return engagement of THE BEST OF ANN-MARGRET..... LIZA MINNELLI, off for engagements in romantic Rio de Janiero, set for a Riviera return in June.....

STRIP BITS & PIECES.....More gorgeous than ever ABBE LANE, at the Desert Inn Hotel, is popping up all over town in an extensive outdoor billboard campaign. The full color photos of Abbe are by the Playboy Mag famous photog. William Casilli.....THE JACKSON FIVE makes its Las Vegas debut, opening at the MGM Grand Hotel, this spring.....JOHNNY MATHIS, a rare Vegas attraction, signed by Arvid Nelson for a repeat engagement at the Sahara Congo Room opening April 30.....Adding to the excitement and color at MGM's Jai Alai: PERRY & ABBE (Lane) LEFF, JOAN RIVERS, FABIAN with manager ALLAN CARR, Australian songbird DIANA TRASK (now in her solo co-star engagement with DANNY THOMAS at the Sands), FRENCHY & MARTY ALLEN, singer FRANKIE RANDALL (who's written the official Las Vegas song, "Hello, Vegas" soon to be given an all out promo by the city and the Las Vegas Public Relations Association).....

ANKA HEADLINES AT CAESARS PALACE



POINTER SISTERS

The incomparable, Paul Anka and the swinging, zinging Pointer Sisters, the latter making their Las Vegas debut, begin a two-week engagement in the Circus Maximus theatre-restaurant at Caesars Palace Friday,, February 15.

Anka, the diminutive dynamo who just concluded an engagement at the Palace Jan. 23, is a quick return and with energy in such short supply every where you look, not a moment too soon! The hard-hitting singer-composer will be performing his prodigious list of song-hits written for himself and just about every other singing superstar in show business.

There's a big plus this time around, for Paul will be presenting the marvelous Pointer Sisters on his show.

Born and bred in an Oakland, Calif., ghetto, the four song-sisters, Ruth Anita, June and Bonnie Pointer, are



PAUL

reaching an apex of what has been a meteoric, show business rise. The non-stop energizers, dressed in the colorful garb of the 1940's brought their inimitable style of oldies that turned them into rock-in' sockin' contemporary hits. They're just about the top disc sellers in the country today.

The award-winning Nat Brandwynne orchestra will provide the musical backing for the show.

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