

ENTERTAINMENT TRIP AROUND THE WORLD



DICK MCINNES

MORE STRIP TRIPPING, LAS VEGAS STYLE...
The Las Vegas strip is lit up again. Don't fret, energy crisis supporters, I don't mean that the lights are all on again. I simply mean that ANN-MARGARET is back in town and that'll light up any strip. She's brought her "The Best of Ann-Margret" back to the Superstar Theatre in the Tropicana and it is dynamite.

Putting together a review based on a group of her showstoppers from previous shows is one helluva idea and it works beautifully. Of course, the luscious Swede is the focal point and such a performance! She really works on that stage. She sings, she dances, she does just about everything and she does it well. The Swedish lullaby with film of Ann in Sweden is still a beautiful bit and the knockout motorcycle number from her show at the Riviera in 1967 are still tops. The woman is sexier than ever on that bike. A fun nostalgia type number from Miami 71, "One of Those Songs" and a torchy "Help Me Make Through the Night" show the versatile talent of the lady.

She moves out into the audience with Hilton 73 smasher "Take a Little Two Step" for a little fun and games which is a good audience pleaser. An added plus was a fun number by the male dancers called "It's Tough to be A Dancer in An Ann-Margret Show" lamenting in song about how hard they work. It's the truth too. Those guys really earn their paychecks. They just happen to be terrific dancers too. She closed with her philosophy, "When You're smiling" which is a lovely thought. Ann-Margret truly belongs in the Superstar Theatre.

Ann-Margret opening act, GABRIEL KAPLAN is one funny boy. His routines on "Father Knows Best", a young boy going into a drugstore to buy "that thing" for the first time, a take off on the NewlyWed Game, a drunk Ed Sullivan and a commercial by a super stud were all fresh and very funny.

I also caught the "Folies Bergere" in the Tropicana showroom. The sets are lavish, the girls are beautiful and some of the acts in between spectacular numbers were very good. GUS AUGSPURG with his monkey and baboon companions was exceptionally good. He had to follow the RUDAS ACRO DANCERS which is a job that I wouldn't relish. They are a super talented group 7 boys and 7 girls who do Le Can-Can perfectly.

AUDREY ARNO is headlined as the first performer ever to receive "star" billing since the Folies came to Las Vegas 13 years ago and she deserves it. A little Piaf, a little Leslie Caron and a lot of talent.

I'd like to thank the Tropicana and their PR rep, FRANK LIEBERMAN for a groovy weekend. I had never stayed at the Trop before but had always heard of their Tiffany reputation. The staff more than lives up to it. In a town where service sometimes slips away, the Tropicana deserves a medal.



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