

LAS VEGAS

SHOW EAST

Mark Tan
IN
LAS VEGAS



STRIP STOPPERS.....JAMES DARREN, just closed at the Sahara, returns thrice more this year to join Buddy Hackett at the Congo Room. Next date up is October 5. Meanwhile, Jimmy's catching up on some of his solo nitery commitments opening this week in the midwest and a follow up return engagement to his hometown, Philadelphia.....The upcoming **BEAUX ARTS HALLOWE'EN BALL**, the annual all-night masquerade for Strip performers and friends, will have a special new feature as part of the entertainment - a look-a-like contest to find the nearest twin to stars like ANN-MARGRET, MITZI GAYNOR, BOBBIE GENTRY, CONNIE STEVENS, etc. The exact details will be announced shortly. Invitations are out now to Strip headliners to join the panel of judges, and the judges just happen to be Ann-Margret, Mitzi Gaynor, Bobbie Gentry, Connie Stevens plus DON RICKLES, SHECKY GREENE and two of show biz' most famous masters of disguise and masquerades, the incredible JIM BAILEY and the Sands' headliner impressionist RICH LITTLE.....PETULA CLARK, so marvelous in her current outing with fellow Britisher ANTHONY NEWLEY, at Caesars Palace, returns November 22 to make her Riviera debut, with guest-star FRANK GORSHIN.....JOAN RIVERS, always a bit hit here, rejoins one of her favorite costars, SERGIO FRANCHI, opening September 25 at the MGM Grand Hotel's Celebrity Room. Following Sergio and Joan will be Joan's last costars at the Grand, SHIRLEY JONES & JACK CASSIDY with a co-attraction still to be set.....But don't be too surprised if Shirley and Jack bring Laugh In's zany RUTH BUZZI as their special guest star. Hear-tell that Ruth has finally decided to give Vegas a venture and has a brand new act that is the parody to end all parodies of every glamour girl act. Ruth still hasn't picked her hotel but understand she has several major showrooms in hot pursuit. Miss Buzzi's last (and only) Vegas appearance was as guest star with GENE KELLY in his "Wonderful World of Girls" revue at the then International (new Hilton) Hotel..... BOBBY VINTON returns to headline at the Flamingo opening Sept. 12. That's a lucky or unlucky night to bow - depending on how you look at it. Right across the Strip, same night, will be the opening of THE SINATRA FAMILY - Frank, Nancy and Frank Jr.....And down the Strip a bit, KEELY SMITH will be opening at the Thunderbird with her guest, NORM CROSBY.....MITZI GAYNOR returns to celebrate the one year anniversary of the Tropicana Superstar Theater. Mitzi opened the room last October and will be back to play her only Las Vegas engagement this year, opening October 11.....

'ROUND TOWN.....MOTOWN GIANTS, THE JACKSON FIVE are back for their second visit, at the MGM Grand, and as usual, are doing their usual capacity-plus business. Seems EVERYBODY wants to see the J-Five, and that means the entire family from tiny tots to grandparents. The



JOHNNY TILLOTSON RETURNS TO THE FLAMINGO HILTON UNTIL SEPTEMBER 11. WHILE IN TOWN JOHNNY WILL GIVE MUCH OF HIS TIME FOR THE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY TELETHON AND PRE-TELETHON ACTIVITIES.

Five (who are really six, seven or eight as the show progresses) will just miss being in town the same time as their soul-brothers, THE OSMONDS. The Five closes Sept. 10, the Osmonds open Sept. 13 (at the Tropicana of course). Another blockbuster from Motown, the inimitable and often imitated THE TEMPTATIONS open Sept. 3 at the Las Vegas Hilton..... PHYLLIS DILLER headlines her merry romp of music, magic and mania at the Tropicana Superstar. Joining Phyllis both on and off stage, in the audience, and in the constant parade of comedy confusion are musical groups, SWING and THE MARK & CLARK EXPEDITION, magician MARCER HELMS, actors/writers PAT McCORMACK & MARC LONDON, and a St. Bernard. Also in the show, making a rather unexpected entrance and an even faster exit is dancer-singer LILLIAN D'HONAU (whose credits include just about every major production show in town, several book musicals at the Union Plaza, the Charlie Rich Show, and Donn Arden's sumptuous extravaganza from a few years ago, PZAZZ).....Designer JERRY SKEELS who has his own company in Los Angeles, has been keeping busy these past few months sketching and whipping up an ever changing wardrobe for impressionist-singer JIM BAILEY (now at the Thunderbird). Skeels, who designs for both men and women, did all the clothes for Bailey and his guest stars JUDY GARLAND, BARBRA STREISAND, PEGGY LEE, and PHYLLIS DILLER. Jerry has now taken on the added assignment of being Jim's road manager/designer, and has accompanied him recently to Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and all over the U.S. This year, Bailey will be making his first appearance in London, and Skeels and his wife, actress-singer VIRGINIA JAEGER will join him to watch the audience response to Jim's uncanny carbons.....The scintillating JULIET PROWSE is wowin' em nightly at the Desert Inn with her deliciously staged and choreographed spectacular. Juliet's tribute to the years that "Hollywood Went Latin" gives her a chance to show off her talents as a first rate comedienne portraying a bubbly bubble headed blonde (Do You Want to Buy a Duck??), a vampy man-killer named Zeld, and the chick chicky boom chick herself, Carmen Miranda ("If you feel low you can climb up on my shoes, if you're hungry you can eat my hat!").

Juliet's award winning production number, Ravel's "Bolero" is brilliant!.....

STRIP BITS.....MEL TORME, at the Sahara with Jerry Lewis, will stay over just long enough to join Jerry on the opening hours of his Labor Day Telethon for Muscular Dystrophy. Then Mel hops a jet, flies to New York, and picks up the mike at that end to host the New York portions of the Telethon. When the Telethon ends (hopefully some \$20 million dollars later) Mel gets back on his jet and flies back to the west coast. A week later, it's back to New York and his annual opening at the St. Regis (Mel has opened the room every season for the past five years).....THE SMOTHERS BROTHERS and JOHN DAVIDSON open Aug. 28 at the Riviera.....PAUL ANKA makes his first Strip appearance in several months, opening Oct. 10 at Caesars Palace.....ROSLYN KIND, just closed at the Flamingo, has been signed to guest star on three "IN SESSION" tv specials for Sam Riddle and Kip Walton Productions. Riddle-Walton's big special "LISTEN...THAT'S LOVE" starring Paul Williams, Helen Reddy and Roslyn airs this fall.....JACKIE "Lonely Tardrops" WILSON headlines the new Nitebird (midnight to dawn entertainment) newly opened at the Flamingo.....

WEEKEND WANDERERS.....RIP TAYLOR at the Stardust Lounge.....IRV BENSON, MARILYN ROBERTSON, DENISE MONTEGO and company in Barry Ashton's "This Is Burlesque" at the Aladdin.....LOVELACE WATKINS in his mainroom bow at the Flamingo.....THE JACKSON FIVE at the MGM.....JAI ALAI at the MGM Fronton.....and ELVIS at the Hilton!.....

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