

LAS VEGAS SHOWWASE

Mark Tan
IN
LAS VEGAS

SHOW HOPPIN' . . . THE JACKSON FIVE back at the MGM Grand Hotel packin' in Motown and non-Motown fans from seven to seventy. The J-5 will make still another appearance at the Grand this year, opening in November to greet the Thanksgiving holiday visitors. . . . **LOVELACE WATKINS**, the hot new American star from England, in his mainroom debut at the Flamingo. Word 'round town is that Watkins not only lives up to all of his rave advances, he even surpasses them in actual performance. Funny favorite **CORBETT MONICA** is Watkins' gueststar. . . . Vegas Visitors who are always asking where they can find and see Strip stars (other than in their respective showrooms) should know that the place to go is the Sahara Hotel and the daily (5 to 7 p.m.) **JOE DELANEY SHOW**, from the new Keno Lounge. Joe's radio show (on KLVV here) is a free for all forum for the stars who pop in to chat and they are at their most casual, candid and outspoken. In recent weeks, for instance, Joe has had stars like **BUDDY HACKETT**, **JAMES DARREN**, **GABRIEL KAPLAN**, **SHIRLEY MACLAINE**, **HELEN REDDY**, **LIZA MINNELLI**, **DON RICKLES**, and dozens more dropping by, unannounced. . . . **JIM NABORS** and **CHARO** follow a "hot" Jerry Lewis and Mel Torme combo at the Sahara Congo Room, on August 30. Jerry and Mel will stay over; **JERRY'S MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY TELETHON** starts Sept. 1 from the Sahara Space Center. Mel will be here to open the show, then flies to New York to host the NY hookup. . . . **JACKIE WILSON** headlines the new **NITEBIRD** Theater at the Flamingo Casino Theater. Jackie's special guest is dynamic **MILLIE JACKSON**. . . . **WAYNE NEWTON** headlines, with comedy star **DAVE HARRY**, at the Sands until September 17. On September 19, Wayne packs up his show and goes all the way down the Strip, to the Frontier, where he opens for six weeks! . . .

TONIGHT (August 30-31) AT 3:00 A.M., don't forget the all star performance of Breck Wall-Joe Peterson's "BOTTOMS UP" at the Hilton Casino Theater. Proceeds from raffle tickets will go toward medical expenses of cast member **ALICIA IRWIN**. Among the stars set to make special guest star appearances within the musical comedy hit are **JULIET PROWSE**, **RIP TAYLOR**, **MEL TORME**, **CORBETT MONICA**, **ROBERT GOULET**, **PHYLLIS DILLER**, **JAN MURRAY**, **JERRY VALE**, and many, many more extra added surprises!! Be there!!! . . .



ALLIENE FLANERY, FEATURED VOCALIST AND COMEDIENNE WITH THE **MICKEY FINN SHOW** AT THE LANDMARK HOTEL SENDS FORTH GOOD VIBRATIONS AS SHE DELIVERS TUNES LIKE "IDON'T CARE" AND "MY MAN" WITH A CLEAR, DEEP REACHING VOICE AND SENSITIVITY TO LYRICS. ALSO FEATURED IN THIS INFECTIOUSLY HAPPY SHOW ARE THE **WALKERS**, A TRIPLE FUNNY TRIO, WHO DO IMPERSONATIONS OF THE **LENNON SISTERS**, **MILLS BROTHERS** AND THE **SUPREMES**. **MUSICAL FARE RUNS STRONG** IN NOSTALGIA WITH THE SOUNDS OF THE 90's, 20's, 30's, 40's AND 50's.

BITS & PIECES. . . **RIP TAYLOR** moves into the mainroom tonight, opening with **VIKKI CARR** at the Tropicana Superstar Theater. Rip who has been a Strip favorite with engagements at the Stardust, Sahara, Dunes, and Aladdin in recent years, is now a permanent resident of Las Vegas. . . . **BARBARA EDEN** returns to the MGM Grand on October 23 with **SHECKY GREENE**. . . . **ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK** opens Sept. 18 at the Riviera. . . . **MITZI GAYNOR**, **ANN-MARGRET**, **DON RICKLES**, **BOBBIE GENTRY** and **SHECKY GREENE** among the stars being invited to join the judge's panel at the October 31 **BEAUX ART HALLOWE'EN BALL** which will be held this year, at the Stardust Convention Center. . . . **TONY MARTIN & CYD CHARISSE** return to the Thunderbird Oct. 3. **KEELY SMITH**, a smash hit in her first T-Bird date (and return to Vegas) a few months ago, will be back Sept. 12 with guest star **NORM CROSBY**. . . . Comedian **MILT KAMEN**, a hit in his first Nevada appearance in some five years, with **TONY BENNETT** at Harrah's Reno. . . . And from Tahoe, comes word that movie star **DYAN CANNON**, with a brand new act since her nitery bow several months ago, is a new singing sensation. Is a Vegas bid in the offing? . . .

WEEKEND WANDERERS. . . **TOM JONES**, in person, at Caesars Palace. . . **LOVELACE WATKINS** at the Flamingo. . . **DONN ARDEN'S HALLELUJAH HOLLYWOOD** at the MGM Grand. . . **ELVIS** at the Hilton. . . **JULIET PROWSE & JAN MURRAY** at the Desert Inn. . . **THE JACKSON FIVE** at the Grand. . .

LOVELACE UNLEASHED

Another powerfully-voiced, magnetically endowed song great apparently is set to take his place beside that elite corps of male superstars who play Las Vegas as Lovelace Allen Watkins was unleashed upon the American show scene at the Flamingo Hilton main room on August 22.

Co-starring with Lovelace is Corbett Monica, one of the top comics in the country and a long-time Vegas favorite. Corbett's rapid fire delivery specializes on the plight of every man coping with today's world.

Lovelace, and that is his real name, is an expatriate American of Creole, French, Spanish and Negro heritage who in only three years has become the premier cabaret star in Britain, the European continent and wherever he's performed world-wide. The Flamingo engagement represents his first major assault upon U.S.A. audiences.

Watkins arrived in this country with a remarkable portfolio of accolades from the world press. One refers to him as "the greatest cabaret entertainer in the world." Ed Sullivan says that he's "never heard so

much applause for a singer." And yet, for Watkins, the route to this eminence was long and arduous. There was very little to sustain him at times except his own drive and an ability to win over audiences.

Born in New Brunswick, New Jersey and raised by his grandmother, religion and music were the dominant factors in his early life.

"At the age of seven I was a singer in the church choir. I had a big mouth even then and soon I was singing solos."

He later became a deacon in the Baptist Church and while in his teens was a Golden Gloves boxing champion. Lovelace received a Bachelor of Science degree at Rutgers University where he did scientific research under a Nobel Prize winner.

At first a medical career seemed to be in the cards for Watkins. But eventually music won out, despite strong protests from his family.

"I guess I always knew music was my first and last love," says Lovelace. "Music is my life, and my ambition simply is to use my voice to express myself."

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