

# LAS VEGAS SHOWCASE

Mark Tan  
IN  
LAS VEGAS



**LIFE UPON THE WICKED STAGE.....BOBBY HATFIELD and BILL MEDLEY, THE RIGHTEOUS BROTHERS,** now at the Riviera with Dionne Warwick, are addicted tennis buffs. The duo have discovered the all night indoor tennis courts at the Tropicana and have been playing after almost every show. The Righteous Brothers, reunited last year, are also playing to such receptive and strong business at the Versailles Room, it's no wonder a couple of ty networks are after them to sign for their own summer series.....**BRECK WALL, DEEDA HYMES, SUZANNE BUHRER, JAN SUTTON** and the rest of the "BOTTOMS UP" company leave this weekend for the debut perf of the all new '75 edition, opening February 18 at Harrah's Tahoe. The longest running musical comedy revue in Las Vegas is also readying a new Las Vegas hotel base, later this spring, with about four hotels in the running to land the marathon laugh hit.....**JAMES DARREN** who'll be making a stunning return to movie-making this summer as the star of the new rock musical version based on the life of **RUDOLPH VALENTINO**, will have his career in bloom in all media. Jimmy has a new recording deal a year load of nitery bookings (including the Sahara Hotel here), and is mulling a couple of television series situations. His last tv series was the popular science-fiction "Time Tunnel".....**MEL TORME**, returning to the Sahara with **JERRY LEWIS** on February 27, will have his new Atlantic album in release to coincide with his Vegas stint. Titled simple "Mel Torme - Live at Maisonette", the new album is Mel's first recording effort in more than a year and a muchly looked forward to musical event!!.....**DIANA ROSS** will have tv favorite **FREDDIE PRINZE** ("Chico and The Man") as her special gueststar when she makes her first Caesars Palace engagement of the new year, opening April 3.....**MAC DAVIS** will be playing in the friendliest of competition when he makes his mainroom headliner debut next month at the MGM Grand. Mac's good buddy **ELVIS PRESLEY** who brought Davis "In the Ghetto" into prominence will be at the Las Vegas Hilton. And both Elvis and Mac will have **THE KING** himself, **FRANK SINATRA** appearing at Caesars Palace, opening March 25.....

**SPEAKING OF SPECIAL EVENTS**, don't miss the current limited (thru Feb. 22) one-woman art exhibit of **NANCY FONTAINE**, now on display at the Tropicana Superstar foyer.

**STRIP CHATTER.....JOAN RIVERS** winged into town for one night to fill in for ailing **SHECKY GREENE**, at the MGM Grand. Joan left the next morn to open at the Warehouse in Denver. She'll be back at the Grand, with Helen Reddy, on March 7.....The Tropicana's new "FOLIES BERGERE" opening March 15, starring **RIP TAYLOR**, will premiere in a newly christened showroom. The present Superstar Theater will be renamed The Folies Room in honor of the new spectacle being produced by **ALAN LEE**, staged and choreographed by **JERRY JACKSON**. William Morris is designing the sets; Nolan Miller the costumes. Also featured in the revue as the singing-host will be singer-dancer **BUDDY VEST**.....**BARRY ASHTON & WOLF KOCHMANN'S** new smash hit at the Aladdin Hotel, "VIVE PARIS VIVE!" keeps adding to glowing raves from both public and critics. The all new revue, a faithful and lavishly artful re-creation of the Paris Music Hall, features **ROBERT SISSA, TRUDIE NECID, MICHELLE MERCIER, ILES ROSETTI, and THE GREAT TOMSONI**.....Moppel singing sensation **CARRIE McDOWELL**, now in her Strip bow with **LIBERACE** at the Las Vegas Hilton, has been signed to record on the ABC label. Carrie, an 11-year old discovery of **DAN ROWAN & DICK MARTIN**, cuts her first album when she closes here.....**THE CAIN MUTINY**, back at the MGM Lion's Den, has their first single in release (on the GD B & C label) called "YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU" (written by the Cains) with Johnny Nash's "WHAT KIND OF LOVE IS THIS" on the flip side. Mar Cain did the arrangements for both sides; **JIMMY HASKELL** is the disc producer.....Hollywood goasips are spreading the rumor far and wide that **EDDIE FISHER** - scheduled to open tonight (14th) with **BUDDY HACKETT** at the Sahara - and his ex- **CONNIE STEVENS** - opening Feb. 20 at the Flamingo - are inching toward a reconciliation. It's a nice thought even if it's all rumors his stand at the Sands on February 19. **BUCK OWENS** has been filling in for him.....**ROBERT GOULET**, literally glowing with stamina, enthusiasm and gusto, into an eight week stay at the Frontier Hotel. Robert will have **NIPSEY RUSSELL** with him for four weeks followed by four more with his lovely and talented missus **CAROL LAWRENCE** opening March 6.



**EDDIE FISHER GUEST STARS WITH BUDDY HACKETT IN NEW SHOW OPENING TONIGHT IN THE SAHARA'S CONGO ROOM.**

**WEEKEND WANDERERS.....STEVE & EYDIE & EYDIE & STEVE** - the one of a kind Strip Valentines - now at Caesars Palace.....**LIBERACE** at the Hilton.....**DONN ARDEN'S "HALLELUJAH HOLLYWOOD"** at the Grand.....**JULIET PROWSE** at the Desert Inn.....**GEORGE ARNOLD'S "SPICE ON ICE"** at the Hacienda.....**PHIL FORD, JANE KEAN & MARILYN CHAMBERS** in "Mind With the Dirty Man" at the Union Plaza.....

## SERGIO FRANCHI BACK AT MGM GRAND

The potent pop-operatic voice of Sergio Franchi is reverberating in the Celebrity Room of the MGM Grand Hotel.

This will be the fourth Franchi engagement at the Grand and follows current headliners Shecky Greene and Karen Wyman.

Playing the role of a musical "Godfather," the Italian tenor has "arranged" for the MGM debut of his singing sensation sister Dana Valery and comedian Dick Capri to support him in the three-week engagement. He made them an offer they couldn't refuse.

Franchi fills the 1,200-seat theater-restaurant with his rug-



**SERGIO**

gedly sensual voice laced with that amorphous Italian charm which only other tenors can fully appreciate.

Miss Valery is still riding the crest of a short but meteoric singing career that has given her a wide range of success.

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