

ENTERTAINMENT TRIP AROUND THE WORLD



Finally made it to see "The Hiding Place" and it is definitely one of the finest movies I've seen this year. The acting is superb and don't be surprised if at Oscar time JULIE HARRIS, EILEEN HECKART & newcomer to films, JEANNETTE CLIFT are among the nominees. ARTHUR O'CONNELL is also in rare form in this film. The story as you must all know is about the German occupation of Holland and the atrocities perpetrated upon the Jews and other Dutch loyalists. I urge you to see the picture, not to reopen past wounds or to start new battles, but to make sure that it never happens again. "The Hiding Place" is an example of motion picture artistry at its best. The message is positive. Absorb it, please.

Thalian Tripping...The 20th Thalian Ball honoring DEBBIE REYNOLDS was a smash SRO occasion with Hollywood's finest turning out in their finest. Debbie was a knockout sporting a new hairdo looking like she stepped out of "Singin' in the Rain" and seemed to be pleased by the gala evening. She was really surprised when CARLETON CARPENTER, her old "Abba Dabba Honeymoon" buddy bounced out of the audience and talked her into a reprise of that oldie but goodie. Carpenter was secretly flown in from New York as the big surprise. GLENN FORD gave a very touching speech saying that "If it hasn't been for Debbie in my darkest period, I would not be here today." No one could say for sure what he meant but his sincerity was obvious. HARVE PRESNELL sang a couple of songs from "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" (Debbie's Oscar-nominated performance), LARFY & NORMA STORCH did a rather funny skit that was written for LUCILLE BALL &

GARY MORTON (no shows, no reason given) and VIKKI CARR did a segment of her nightclub act starting with saluting Debbie with "She's One Helluva Woman" and the audience agreed completely. Other friends and co-stars gathered to say "We Love You, Debbie" were CYD CHARRISE ("Singin' in the Rain"), JACK OAKIE ("The Rat Race"), RAY STRICKLYN ("The Catered Affair"), JUNE HAVER MACMURRAY ("The Daughter of Rosie O'Grady"), SHELLEY WINTERS ("What the Matter with Helen"), with DON STROUD, DENNIS WEAVER (also "Helen" saying "I didn't get Debbie in this movie, Shelley did"), TONY MARTIN, FANNIE FLAGG & DICK SARGENT, JUNE ALLYSON (hubby DICK POWELL co-starred with Debbie in "Susan Slept Here"), ANNE FRANCIS (also a "Susan" alumni), GENE KELLY ("Singin' in the Rain"), ELLIOTT GOULD, RUSS TAMBLYN ("Athena"), JACK CARTER (who did a very funny bit on objects that Debbie hadn't collected for her pet movie museum), LUCILLE BENSON, JANE WITHERS (who collected some memorabilia at the end of the evening, two giant posters of Debbie and the Thalias sign), RUTA LEE (the Thalias superactive prez who dazzled everyone with her duet from "Irene" with KATHLEEN FREEMAN), CHARLTON HESTON, ANN MILLER, CHARLES BRONSON & JILL IRELAND and the entire Burbank High School band of which Mary Frances Reynolds was a proud member once upon a time. The band was super and Debbie, well she's Debbie Reynolds and her speech was filled with wit, charm and love for the work that the Thalias have done. She's unsinkable herself and she deserved the tribute.

To Debbie and the Thalias 20 more years of good work! It obviously pays off. This year the Thalias paid off a one and a half million dollar pledge used to build the Thalias Mental Health Clinic at Cedar - Sinai and pledged \$500,000 more and gave Cedar - Sinai a \$200,000 check as a down payment. This ball raised over \$100,000. Now that's good news!

Hope you all get some good news this week.



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KNESSET RECONSIDERS INELIGIBLE MARRIAGE LIST

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- A Kneset committee will consider recommendations by State Attorney Aharon Barak for changes in the controversial list of persons ineligible for marriage according to halacha (Jewish religious law.) Barak ruled earlier that as long as Israeli law invests the rabbinate with exclusive jurisdiction over marriage and divorce, the list was in principle a legal and necessary means for applying the marriage and divorce laws. Barak recommended that the list should no longer contain persons who have not applied for marriage licenses and that persons on the list should be informed of the fact and given an opportunity to state their case. He also recommended that the list be kept only at the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Jerusalem and not, as is the practice, distributed to the 200-odd marriage registrars around the country.

In the Kneset debate before the recommendations were sent to the committee, MK Yehuda Shaari of the Independent Liberal Party, said the only solution to the "blacklist" was to establish civil marriage for persons the rabbinate refuses to marry. Meanwhile, Religious Affairs Minister Yitzhak Rafael has promised to cooperate in correcting the flaw in the marriage list.

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