

LAS VEGAS SHOWCASE

Mark Tan
IN
LAS VEGAS

BACK AT LAST, after a long three week hiatus (thanks in part to the recently resolved Strip Strike) and too brief look-see at entertainment happenings in other parts of the U.S. and Canada. It's great to go travelling but it's good to be "home" again despite a flurry of confusion and the trials of revving up and out again. Rumors persisted that I had "flown off forever" to Greece, Hawaii, Australia, Iran or Philadelphia. Not so, not so. Where could I go.....without you??.....

ROUND TOWN.....Las Vegas town that is, now that the Strip is back to its 'usual' 24-hour fun, entertainment, gambling and other assorted diversions. There's certainly no shortage of **STAR POWER** these delightfully balmy summer evenings - **BETTE MIDLER** the Queen of Trash and Glitter is in her Caesars Palace debut, and has to be seen to be believed. Whatever you've heard about the gloriously uninhibited and original "The Divine Miss M" is probably true. Vegas audiences just might not be ready for anyone as devastating as Bette but see her you **MUST** to see one of show business' most talked about, praised, blasted, shocking and electrifying personalities.....**CONNIE STEVENS** looking sooooo sexy these days is at the Las Vegas Hilton in the best show of her Las Vegas career. The blonde and beautiful Miss Stevens - with her special guest stars **IKE** and **TINE TURNER** - has got herself all together now. Connie's powerhouse vocalizing will surprise her television and movie fans.....Luscious **LOLA** (there's only one **FALANA**) is making her headliner bow at the MGM Grand with hilarious costar (and fellow Philadelphian) **DAVID BRENNER**. It didn't take Faberge to tell Falana fans that the lady is a tigress personified. Sexy, saucy, and scintillating, Lola's first "big production show" proves what all the shouting is about. You'll see **PLENTY** of Lola (Ray Agayhan's costumes are a knockout) but what you might not see is **ENOUGH** of Lola (all by herself and doing the kind of singing and dancing that made her a showstopper every time she appeared here with Sammy Davis Jr). A line up of strong male dancers (including such Vegas known terpers as **JERRY GRIMES**, **GENE MONTOYA**, and **HARVEY COHEN**) and a trio of girl singers back the stunning star..... **BURT BACHARACH** and **JOEL GREY** (at the Riviera Versailles Room) are making their first Vegas appearance together but, as Burt reveals in his show, they have worked together before in other times, and very different other places. Burt was once Joel's musical conductor when both were toiling at small clubs and hotels 'round the country. Their mutual admiration is exceeded only by their mutual successes.....**WAYNE NEWTON**, the



DANNY THOMAS MAKING HIS FIRST APPEARANCE IN THE CONGO ROOM AT THE SAHARA HOTEL WITH **CHARO**, THE SUPPORTING ACT.

"Hallelujah Hollywood" of male singing stars, is back for his umpteenth appearance at one of the Hughes Hotels (this time it's his old home base, the Frontier Hotel Music Hall) and naturally, it's **SRO** every night of every show of every week of every month that Wayne plays Vegas. Winner of the Las Vegas Entertainment Award as **MALE STAR OF THE YEAR**, Wayne is easily the Number One Las Vegas attraction. Person for person, night for night, date for date Wayne outdraws and outplays and out works just about every other star in show business. When you catch his show (either at the Frontier or Sands) you'll see why. He's an incredible entertainer that makes every show seem like it's the first show of his most important Opening Night.....

STRIP BITS & PIECES.....**THE OSMONDS** FINALLY return to Las Vegas (after more than two years absence) opening next month at the Las Vegas Hilton.....**CHARO**, who opened last week with Buddy Hackett at the Sahara, stays on this week as special guest star for "new" Sahara headliner **DANNY THOMAS** (on hiatus from his hit television series). Charo is also readying her own television series (for ABC-TV) and is awaiting the green light to get into summer production for next season.....**JERRY LEWIS** will star in a new Broadway version of the famous Olson & Johnson's "HELLZAPOPPIN".....Union Plaza producer opens his next comedy play "WHO GETS THE DRAPES" at the UP in early May. "Drapes" was the "Odd Couple"-ish comedy that **JACK CARTER** and **JACK CASSIDY** were signed to do for Broadway. Now Jack Carter is busy with his musical "JOLIE" (the life of Al Jolson) and Cassidy tied up in movie and tv projects. Sloate will announce his cast later this month.....The annual **LAS VEGAS ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS** (usually presented in

November) will be nationally televised again this year. Several major sponsors have reportedly been set, and all three networks (plus the 4th network of syndicated stations) are talking a prime time airing date.....Depending on how the Nevada Gaming Commission rules, there could be a massive influx of "foreign" money pouring into Las Vegas this year. Japanese, Arabic, French, Mexican and Australian investors are reportedly ready and waiting with bulging pockets to buy in to existing and still to be built major hotel-casino complexes..... **FREDERIC APCAR**'s all new "CASINO DE PARIS" at the Dunes (A Salute to the 200th Birthday of the U.S.) is playing to packed houses nightly, and its a gorgeously mounted, brilliantly choreographed (thanks to Ron Lewis), and handsomely costumed spectacular. Brith comedy star **FREDDIE SALES**, London singer **JOHN KING**, Swedish comedy acro troupe **THE STUPIDS** and Austria's **CARL CARSONI** headline the specialty acts. **DAVID WRIGHT**, **CHERYL HAMOND**, **DAVIS MCKAY**, **HEATHER VICTORSON**, **JENNIFER WEISS**, **JOAN PALETHORPE** and **GINNIE FALLONE** are among the "Casino's large and attractive company.....

ON THE ROAD: RAQUEL WELCH, **GINGER ROGERS**, **ROCK HUDSON**, **JULIET PROWSE**, **TOTIE FIELDS**, **B.B. KING**, **PHYLLIS DILLER**, **JAMES DARREN**, **JOAN RIVERS**, **JOHN DAVIDSON**, **ANN-MARGRET**, **RIP TAYLOR**, and **JACK ALBERTSON** are just some of the busy Las Vegas stars that are "out there" in clubs, theaters, hotels and concerts. And everywhere you go, people are talking about **LAS VEGAS** as America's most popular and prized resort city. **EVERYBODY** wants to come to Las Vegas either as a tourist, a new resident, or a performer. If this jaunt from Chicago to Toronto to New York to Philadelphia to Washington to Atlanta to Fort Lauderdale to Miami to Houston to home is ANY indication, Las Vegas is going to need more hotels, more showrooms, more lounges, and more of everything in the coming 70's and 80's.....Dateline: **PHILADELPHIA**: Here in the City of Brotherly Love, it's just as comedy star **DAVID BRENNER** says - "They've been getting **READY** for the Bicentennial for 199 years." President and Mrs. Ford, Queen Elizabeth, the Pope, Frank Sinatra are among the **VIPS** expected for the "official" start of the bicentennial celebration. It actually starts July 4 you know but it really got underway **THREE** years ago.....Dateline: **MIAMI**: **BARRY ASHTON** & **WOLF KOCHMANN'S** "VIVE LES FOLIES" is the big hit of the beach now at the Americana Hotel. An all new Ashton production will be opening in the fall.

WEEKEND WANDERERS.....**BETTE MIDLER** at Caesars Palace.....**BUDDY VEST** featured in the Tropicana's "FOLIES BERGERE"....."HALLELUJAH HOLLYWOOD" at the MGM Grand with special attraction **SIEGFRIED & ROY**.....**CONNIE STEVENS** at the Hilton.....**TONY SANDLER** & **RALPH YOUNG** at the Thunderbird.....**WAYNE NEWTON** at the Frontier.....**LOLA FALANA** & **DAVID BRENNER** at the MGM.....**DANNY THOMAS** & **CHARO** at the Sahara.....**BOB NEWHART** & **DOC SEVERINSEN** at the Sands.....

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