

OF THE STARS ★

BUDDY HACKETT, JAMES DARREN IN SAHARA'S CONGO ROOM

A rare combination of brilliant comedy and outstanding vocal styling is the holiday package being offered in the Sahara Hotel's Congo Room, as Buddy Hackett and James Darren ply their craft in a limited engagement through November 29.

Buddy Hackett has been a show-stopping comedy star on the Las Vegas scene since the early '50's and incredibly, seems to improve with each engagement. His vast repertoire of material, accumulated from his own experiences in the earliest struggling days right up to tonight's curtain are available to be tapped on the slightest cue from his audience.

Hackett has the well-deserved reputation for never presenting two performances alike, which accounts for his claim of 50% "repeaters" in the showroom each night. He takes great pride in being a trailblazer in the presentation of adult fare. The 3- and -4 letter words, the off-color stories are For Adults Only, as the sign outside the Congo Room advises, and he has perfected the technique to a fine art. His sophisticated audiences



BUDDY

may be shocked, but never offended, as he glibly relates one of his classic pieces of material in his own inimitable manner. Ringsiders invariably become part of the show as his attention swings from one table to another. An interesting response about children,

show biz, x-rated movies, travel, obesity or Cleveland, and Hackett is off on a wild flight of reminiscence and observation. Somewhere along the way he drifts into several totally irrelevant anecdotes, leading the audience to the conclusion that he'll never get back to the original subject. But sure enough, he always comes up with a stunning punch line that brings it all together.

In Hackett's decade of headlining at the Sahara, he has introduced many new performers as co-stars and he has had the satisfaction of seeing most of them develop into top-notch performers, possibly from the springboard he offered them.

James Darren is one of Hackett's favorite partners at the Sahara. Although he achieved early success as a recording and film star (remember the beach pictures?), in recent years Darren has emerged as a top nightclub attraction, with wide appeal for his boyish charm and excellent vocal abilities. He handles a ballad or an up-

DEAN MARTIN BACK AT MGM GRAND

Super crooner Dean Martin returns for his sixth and final Bicentennial year appearance at the MGM Grand Hotel when he headlines the Celebrity Room for a limited one-week engagement from December 2 through December 8.

The sleepy-eyed Martin, who has won the hearts of millions of women with his cool, calm style, will be surrounded on stage by -- naturally -- a bevy of beauties in the form of the Goldiggers.

Recording-wise, "That's Amore" launched a singing career for Dino that has seen many of his songs hit the best-seller charts. And, his popularity has yet to stop.

This may very well be the reason Martin continues to be the all-time show-count leader in the

plush 1,200-seat Celebrity Room.

There have been few singers in Las Vegas who have captured the appeal Dino has in years gone by. But, as long as there's a "Strip," Dino considers the MGM Grand as the peak of his long, successful career.

From "That's Amore" to his TV show theme "Everybody Loves Somebody" Dean Martin wins everyone's heart-strings.

The gorgeous Goldiggers feature non-stop entertainment with singing, dancing and comedy.

Following Martin's Celebrity Room fun will be Shecky Greene and Abbe Lane from December 9 through December 18.

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beat tempo with equal ease and seems to be inspired by the powerful Jack Eglash orchestra.

Working with Hackett has sharpened his comedy sense and he handles his

role as a straight man with great skill.

The Hackett-Darren show is seen twice nightly, with an 8 o'clock dinner performance, and again at midnight, cocktails only.



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