

# ENTERTAINMENT TRIP AROUND THE WORLD



**DICK MCINNES**

SHIRLEY BASSEY opened at the Greek Theater in Hollywood and let me tell you, I have never seen so many standing ovations in my life. And I don't want to hear anything about cults. Cult...smult! It is exciting to be around such talent and the roar of the crowd adds to that excitement. Shirley is probably one of the most accomplished showmen (should it be show-woman?) in the business. Everything she does is dramatic and for effect and believe me, after sitting through most of the turkey shows that I have to see, I really appreciate someone like her who gives you goose bumps and makes you feel like you got your money's worth. When she sang "Goldfinger" (probably for the millionth time), she was just as fresh as the first time I heard it. She even went further with it and I think she surprised herself. She commented "I don't believe I did that" after an incredible note she reached. "Big Spender" showed her sassy side and you could see all sides in a revealing dress with a long train that she kicked around. The big dramatic songs "This Is My Life," "Tonight I Gave the Performance of My Life," "Send In the Clowns" and a particularly touching "Alone Again, Naturally" all were big audience faves. What can I tell you... Hooray for Bassey

Tripping around...ANGELA LANSBURY has received an offer to star in a female version of "Sleuth" on Broadway. "Sleuth" as you may remember was a two character (both male) mystery that was a big hit on the stage. The film version with MICHAEL CAINE & LAURENCE OLIVIER wasn't such a big hit. It sounds like an interesting idea but it isn't new. JOAN CRAWFORD was also approached about the same thing several years ago. Hope it comes through this time...DOROTHY LAMOUR,

recuping from a severe case of laryngitis, has had to keep her mouth shut for a month. Says via notes, that she can't wait to talk again and will be on the phone for days catching up... funny marquee out in Northridge. Movie theater was showing "Orca" and "Jaws." Above the titles of the film it read, "Fish and Ships." Well, I thought it was terribly funny...Good and bad news for record collectors. Capitol Records is re-issuing some of their show albums. Good news for those who are looking for certain shows and bad for the ones who have been holding on to that one show because it's worth a lot of money. "Tovarich" with the late VIVIEN LEIGH & JEAN PIERRE AUMONT which although not a great show album, it's worth having, just to listen to Vivien do anything. "Golden Boy" with SAMMY DAVIS & BILLY DANIELS with some great songs like "I Want to Be With You" and "Night Song" to make it a terrific addition to your collection. The cast also boasts a couple of supporting players who have moved along...LOLA FALANA, LOUIS GOSSETT & JEANNETTE DUBOIS. And also "Flahooley" with the most unlikely cast imaginable. BARBARA COOK, JEROME COURTLAND, IRWIN COREY, YMA SUMAC AND THE BIL BAIRD PUPPETS. I told you? But it is very enjoyable and another chance to fall in love with Barbara Cook...

Crown Publishers have published a wonderful, nostalgic look at the 221 "Our Gang" comedies, right from the first one "Our Gang" released in 1922 to the last, "Tale of a Dog" in 1944. Plus catching up with former "Our Gang" members as to what they are doing. One of them HARRY SPEAR is still missing. No one was able to find out what had happened to him. It's a fun book and brings back tons of memories. LEONARD MALTIN & RICHARD W. BANN did a heckuva job. Sells for \$12.95 and it's worth it.

This past month I've lost two good friends JEAN HAGEN & EVERETT HAYES, JR. Jean became a friend when I went to interview her and ended up driving her to an interview, having dinner with her and then on to a screening of "Sunshine Boys." She was a delight to know and was so determined to lick the cancer that she had, that she was an inspiration to everyone. BETTY GARRETT held a memorial service for Jean out at Theater West and GENE KELLY, EFREM ZIMBALIST, JR., DICK DAVALOS and many other friends came by to say goodbye. At the end, everyone stood and gave Jean Hagen one final standing ovation. She'll be missed. And so will Everett. He was a publicist, 28 years old and a lot of fun.

# Las Vegas Jazz

**BOB LEONARD**



The Sahara Hotel has the "monopoly" on the best fun show in town...and super credit should go to Jack Eglash, for headlining "that Latin Sex Symbol," you just have to see one time, and fall in love with...Ample credit should also go to the Daddy of putting "chick" entertainers into the limelight, XAVIER CUGAT...Everyone of his ex-wives had "something" to say in our business, but the most important is the lady CHARO...Cugie must have taught her every conceivable "trick" in the trade for her act... A Flemenco troupe, a Chinaman, a Monkey, and a flag waving song for a finale...There is no way to beat those ingredients...Oh, yes, the off the wall, but very funny humor of Charo is a plus to her many talents as a singer, dancer, and guitarist...The press party that followed was a smash success, with everyone getting a chance to have their picture taken, with this beautiful, warm, friendly and talented lady... Tall, good looking TV Host, Marc Hannibal, got in some good shots with Charo.

I got a real "flurry" when I realized the father of THE KEANE BROTHERS, on the bill with Charo, was none other than BOB KEANE, a record company owner from my past...I remember selling him an album idea using TONY MARTINEZ, who was "Peppino," on the "REAL McCOYS" TV show, some time back...Bob Keane had some heavy rockers on his label like RICHIE VALENS, and BOBBY FULLER, who both passed away from accidents... The jazz background of Bob Keane is starting to influence the "ultra super talented" KEANE BROTHERS...These youngsters write, sing and play keyboards and drums with such professionalism, that you would swear they were grown people instead of "kids."

RIP TAYLOR, on the bill with Charo, and the Keane Brothers, was himself on stage, a "nut" ...maybe that's what being a comedian is all about...Being crazy.

GEORGE HOPKINS, another "comedic maniac" returns to the Sahara Casbah Lounge on October 17th, and promises to "slay the people," with his brand of humor and impressions...George is probably the most imitated performer in the business, and someone deserving "Stardom" for some time...His recent accomplishments are as the "warm up" comedian for "Welcome Back Kotter," "Chico & The Man," plus the summer show of "Sugar-time," all JAMES KOMACK Productions...

The Waterhole nightclub on Industrial and Sahara is featuring down home Bluegrass Music on Friday & Saturday.

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