

LAS VEGAS

SHOWCASE

Mark Tan
IN
LAS VEGAS

TONY BENNETT, JOEY HEATHERTON OFFER TOP SINGING ENTERTAINMENT AT SAHARA

AT THE BEAUX ARTS HALLOWE'EN BALL..... A silver studded SAMMY DAVIS JR. in black leather was the undisputed KING OF THE BALL and entertained more than a thousand showfolks, pals, and Vegas Visitors with his jubilant, funny and unquotable comments at the 10th Annual "Gypsy Carnival" at the Sahara Space Center..... QUEEN OF THE BALL, JOAN RIVERS arrived at 2 AM and stayed til past 6 AM! Joan got one of the evening's most roaring ovations when she went on stage to present The Most Original Costume Award..... DAVID BRENNER with a quip a minute commented on the marathon entertainment and 2 1/2 hour show. "Every performer in show business is going to be on the phone tomorrow begging their agents to book them into Vegas..... ANYTIME but the month of October." Just about EVERY star in town showed up and the judge's panel couldn't have been more cooperative, patient or into the spirit of the all night frolic..... MARILYN CHAMBERS looked gorgeous in an open vest (and that's all) charming the fans who flocked to click her photos..... Emcee PETER ANTHONY & King SAMMY DAVIS JR did a duet..... PATRICK, The All American Male Stripper, and star of the special "Las Vegas Follies" almost went flying into the audience when he jumped off the stage in the blinding glare of the spotlights and flashbulbs poppin'..... Sensational songstress INA HOLIDAY, an outer space creation in all white, did KELLY STEVENS' composition "Woman" in a showstopping segment of the "Follies"..... BIG DAVID of Houston sang "If I Were Your Woman" (via Vikki Carr) to the judges table and had Sammy Davis Jr clutched to his ample bosom in a hilarious parody of torch singers..... Miss Beaux Arts Ball '77, dancer LINDA MUNDEN not only looked ravishing, she got to show off her dancing talents in a bizarre vampire adagio with ARIEL LUCAS that ended with Ariel biting her throat and having "blood" gushing from the neck as the "vampire" carried her off stage..... Maitre d's and captains from CAESARS PALACE, THE LAS VEGAS HILTON, SAHARA, FRONTIER, RIVIERA & MGM joined the showfolk for an off duty holiday, and could sympathize with maitre d' JIM STRANGE who had a jam up at the entrance with hundreds of costumed revelers in search of their friends, tables, etc. Strange with reservations for more than 800 (for the room that was to hold 1000) had nearly double that number to accommodate by 3 AM.....MICHAEL ST LAURENT'S zany "Bette 'Hello Las Vegas' Midler" was a comedy riot joined by St Laurent's surprise gueststars Bette Davis, Carol Burnett, Tallulah Bankhead, Mae West, etc etc etc..... LIBERACE caused a traffic jam, as usual, with his arrival and was mobbed by autograph & photo fans at his table for more than an hour before he could get to the judge's stand..... The "Best" in costume awards presented by Sammy, Joan, Liberace, David Brenner, Marilyn Chambers, Robert Goulet, Keely Smith & Lola Falana..... Singer TOM CHRISTI (Landmark) showed his sexy, rock side with his spot in the "Follies" with a new rendition of "Country Roads"..... Seemed like everybody was handing emcee PETER ANTHONY "special announcements" to be read as part of the "Follies" show including one lady who kept insisting he announce a "turkey shoot". As always, Peter did a superb job of emceeing and somehow got every costume category, every performer, every star, and several in the audience guests announced at the right time and at the right place with dozens of witty bits, inside jokes, and a ton of new topical ad libs..... Dancing cheek to cheek, to

The big band augmented by a complete string section explodes into the up-tempo introduction and from the wings steps the tuxedo-clad superstar. Over the din of the ovation is heard his inimitable sound -- "I'd sacrifice anything come what might, for the sake of havin' you near" -- and at that moment from the opposite wings a vision in white comes whirling out, prompting another outburst from the audience. As Tony Bennett and Joey Heatherton frame the on stage Jack Eglish orchestra, Hotel Sahara Congo Room audiences have their moment to remember. That high spot never diminishes as these brilliant performers



TONY

in turn prove to one and all that they are in a class by themselves.

Bennett's appeal is unique -- a singer who has never compromised good musical taste for the



JOEY

standing there, but her repertoire of dancing and singing numbers demonstrates an abundance of talent rarely seen in one performer.

Tony Bennett and Joey Heatherton are a marvelous combination of what nightclub entertaining is all about. They perform twice nightly (8 o'clock dinner and midnight cocktail shows) in the Sahara's Congo Room through November 2.

thronging mobs: SIEGFRIED (of "Hallelujah Hollywood's" Siegfried & Roy) & LYNETTE CHAPPEL, THE FEROCES FAMILY (from the Dunes "Casino de Paris"), WAYNE ALBRITTON with his beautiful ex BONNIE, Odessa Shop (MGM) manager JIM MARION, popular Strip "dresser" ANN PEARCE, publisher DICK McNEELY, CINAMMON STEEN, columnist MARY ANDERSON, ALAN CLANCY, HECTOR NUNEZ, Stardust "Lido" star KITTY KOVER and Argent veep GENE CIMORELLI, producer & "Follies" director JOE PETERSON, comedian LOU DUPONT, JEFF KUTASH and members of the "Dancing Machine"..... longtime Strip vet & Culinary Union rep TOMMY VOLK, and hundreds of dancers, singers, and performers from every Strip show..... Cabaret star ANGELIQUE PETTYJOHN and her company of four "slaves" for her daring "Marquessa De Sade" specialty number..... Caesars Palace publicity director JIM SEAGRAVE braving battle fatigue by staying up with the Celebrity judge's panel til dawn..... Columnist FORREST DUKE and his tv show talent coordinator LINDA LEWIS making the rounds and greeting friends & celebs..... ROBERT GOULET, so charmin', so gracious and so friendly to the fans and photogs posed for pics, signed autographs, and met a couple of hundred Beaux Arts celebrants..... RRobert's right hand man DAVID LELAND & localite TOMMY RUSSELL led the cheering section at the Goulet table for the parade of costumes and "Follies" performers..... BRUCE BROWN (from Dunes wardrobe) a winner in the Best Male category with his spider man electric light creation..... Country singer HELEN TWELVETREES (David Svisco) a 'black comedy' hit with his "Stand By Your Man" in a wheelchair number.....

WEEKEND WANDERERS..... BILL COSBY back at the Hilton with gueststar EDDIE FISHER..... BUDDY HACKETT & TINA TURNER at Caesars Palace..... ROBERT GOULET and FOSTER BROOKS at the Sands..... "PIN UPS 2001" starring PETER ANTHONY, CELINE BRITT and RAY BENGSTON..... MEL TILLIS in his Vegas bow at the Frontier..... PARLIAMENT FUNKADELIC at the Aladdin Theater Nov. 3.....

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