

# LAS VEGAS

# SHOW EAST

## "Ipi-Tombi" Spells Magic

Every so often a show comes along that influences the masses, and to do so it has to have a magical quality. The smash hit musical "Ipi-Tombi" playing at the Silverbird Hotel is just such a theatrical experience.

"Ipi-Tombi" opened five months ago on July 24th at the Silverbird Hotel to an enthusiastic yet unsuspecting audience. After all, it was almost unanimously assumed that a Black African musical would never be a "Smash-hit" on the Las Vegas Strip. Well wonders never cease and "Ipi-Tombi" plans to be around for a long time.

Many people including critics have tried to come up with the "one special quality" that has made "Ipi-Tombi" a worldwide success. But the truth of the matter is, there is no one element that makes the show so exceptional. It's a combination of the original music, the pulsating drumbeats, the colorful



native costumes, and the universal theme about a tribesman leaving his village to go to the city to earn his fortune and subsequently returning home after becoming disillusioned with

city life. When audiences leave the show, you can hear them remarking also about the phenomenal energy the cast puts out in their dance routines that run almost continuously throughout the program.

Webster's Dictionary says the definition of "magical" is "enchanting" and "Ipi-Tombi" fits that description, too. Most people have an inner desire to travel to far away places and to see how other people live. "Ipi-Tombi" offers a unique peek into a culture that exists thousands of miles away from the famed Las Vegas Strip. This live action image of life in South Africa is capturing the hearts of many Americans.

The magic of "Ipi-Tombi" is being worked on young and old alike. "Ipi-Tombi" can be seen nightly at its Las Vegas home, the Silverbird Hotel. The cast performs two cocktail shows at 9 p.m. and at midnight.

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