

# LAS VEGAS SHOWCASE

## Bill Willard's VEGASTARS

"Best of Las Vegas Awards" sponsors, PM Theatrical Productions, have paged ART FORREST to direct the video event March 21 in the Tropicana Tiffany Theatre. It looks as if it will be a daytime taping for primetime release with network to be named later. Three new honorees in awards categories are GENE KELLY for best principal in a production show or revue, GWEN VERDON, best gypsy, or chorus line dancer and the late JACK COLE for choreographer of the year....TONY MARTIN & CYD CHARISSE are roving the East on the college circuit with their new act introed at the Sahara over New Year's Eve...PAUL ANKA fills out a week at Caesars Palace before moving into the Riviera for future dates. Preview copy of PA's collaboration with BURT BACHARACH for the "Together?" pic starring JACQUELINE BISSET, MAXIMILIAN SCHELL, TERENCE STAMP, an RCA original soundtrack album, reveals plenty of the old BACHARACH tuneful lilt and typical ANKA lyrical punch...African dances are on the UNLV curriculum beginning Saturday as "Ipi Tombi" dancer LYDIA MONA-MODI and drummer KINSHO TSHABALALA safari over from the Silverbird veldt to teach dances of the Zulu, Shangaan and Sotho tribes...DOC SEVERINSEN trumpets a fortnight Desert Inn co - headliner with Debbie Reynolds, a reunion booking for the pair who toted up powerhouse counts tandeming 1979 dates.



RED McILVAINE's search for the perfect II continues with 250 stunners from across the USA in the running to the Frontier where judging will take place later on. RED sed the winner will be offered a co - starring role in a major movie (aren't they all?) to be filmed in Greece. At's wot Red sed...More movie talk -- DICK and ELSIE GOLDSWORTHY received plenty of applause from ShoWest '80 delegates, exhibitors, concessionaires and moguls, for hosting the event last week at MGM Grand.....Trans - American Video of Nevada mobile production units are heavily booked for this month with varied chores from the MERV GRIFFIN show at Caesars Palace to L.A. for some sportspooling. One unit is even being dispatched to Stage 6 at Burbank Studios to tape "Flo," a spin-off of "Alice" for CBS...TONY BENNETT, who closed a puissant Sandstand to return March 12 - 25, is being watched on cable TV (CATV) this month starring in the hour Showtime-Viacom special he taped at the Desert Inn not long ago. His alter ego, ANTHONY BENEDETTO, has presented six exhibitions of his paintings in the last three years in Chicago, London, Toronto and Las Vegas.



KELLY MONTEITH comes off a college concertour to make his MGM Grandebut with THE CAPTAIN & TENILLE. MAC DAVIS, wrapping a Grand reprise wall - to - waller, will be spinning his initial Casablanca album, "It's Hard to Be Humble," zip around on concert and nitery dates, tape his spring NBC-TV special "The Many Facets of Mac Davis" in the interim before returning to the Celebrity Room May 15.....JOAN RIVERS, through Rivers-Rosenberg Productions, signed an exclusive one - year pact with ABC to develop sitcom pilots. She finished one of the funnie pilotings in collaboration with Donald Westlake during her recent Sandstay. Hot ALAN KING opened the Wednesday with the also hot SUSAN ANTON, the King horizons expanded with his new pic "Just Tell Me What You Want" with ALI Mc-

GRAW. Variety gave it this sendoff. "High class fluff. Will probably do satisfactory grosses." One could almost say the same for ANTON...PEARL BAILEY is back at the Sahara with spouse LOUIE BELLSON on drums and conducting the JACK EGLASH ensemble, plus the wildeyed wit of DICK SHAWN, the Sahara Girls a-prancing. FLORENCE HENDERSON makes her Sahara bow following la BAILEY next Sunday.



SUZANNE BUHRER'S voracious "Hot Ginger & Dynamite" winds a fine run at Meadows Playhouse Saturday, but don't look for it soon in your friendly local showroom or lounge. Hasn't got T&A. DENISE CLEMENTE is belting her nightly song revels in the Silverbird lounge and was joined by PAUL CHRISTOPHER Tuesday....The Aladdin Theatre for the Performing Arts opened up for one of its now rare concerts to feature KENNY LOGGINS Wednesday. In the lounge, THE IRISH SHOW BAND shares the stage with the FOUR COINS....CARME rejoined the MORRIS show at the Silver Slipper...Las Vegas Jazz Society members head for the Desert Inn this weekend for Western Regional Federation for Jazz Conference. At the Hofbrau last weekend, the MERV GRIFFIN Show All-Stars -- RAY BROWN, PLAS JOHNSON, JACK SHELDON, MUNDELL LOWE, NICK CEROLI and JOHN VIETH jumped with other jazz greats and the entire bash was taped for a live album.... More than 8,000,000 folk have bunched into the Grand's Ziegfeld Room for "Hallelujah Hollywood" and the Celebrity Room for headliners in the six year life of the resort...RUSTY WARREN gives her nightly lectures on "Knockers Up" and diverse subjects in the Sahara's

Casbar, with PETE BARBUTTI on deck the 25th....Out from Chicago, via Harvey's Tahoe, a trio called THE PERFECT CIRCLE is due to rock Cleopatra's Barge of Caesars Palace on the 21st for six frames....And PATTI JAMES is shaking up the Omaha Lounge at Union Plaza from six p.m. to midnight....BOB ANDERSON returned to his aerie atop the Dunes Monday for another longie...As a finale this may bolster falling egos contemplating sunken bank accounts -- the U.S. Commerce Dept. claims Nevada incomes are winning the old inflation fight with a combined rate of 3.1, whatever that means. But top areas which maintain the best grasp on the parlous financial situation are Rhode Island and District of Columbia. Now, go, and face the future uninflated.



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