

OF THE STARS

SAMMY DAVIS JR. opus at Caesars Palace Thursday for two...Same night, WAYNE NEWTON forsakes his Aladdin to go Frontier with DAVE BARRY....

"A CHORUS LINE" ARRIVES AT D.J.

room of the Desert Inn and Country Club for a nine-week engagement through Dec. 14.

Unanimously acclaimed by critics when it opened on Broadway, "A Chorus Line" lived up to their superlatives by becoming the greatest theatre event of its time, not only in New York and the United States, but world-wide.

The musical, which was conceived, choreographed and directed by Michael Bennett, celebrates "gypsies," the chorus dancers who form the background and support for the stars.

The premise of the landmark work is simple. It presents the audience with an audition for a Broadway chorus line. Two dozen applicants show up for the audition, and before the final eight dancers have been chosen, the audience gets to know the

aspirants through the questions of the director who sympathetically but relentlessly interviews them.

As the audition progresses, the dancers, one by one, pull in and out of the chorus line, now dancing or singing solo, now moving back to form a part of the whole.

"A Chorus Line" was born at a series of marathon tapings when Bennett invited some dancers he knew and worked with to come and tell their own stories. One of these dancers was Nicholas Dante who told Bennett he would rather write than dance.

Bennett and Dante were joined by James Kirkwood, a performer who had switched to a writing career. Together, they completed the book. Bob Avian acted as co-choreographer.

Marvin Hamlisch, who had recently won Oscars for the films "The Sting" and "The Way We Were," agreed to write the score and Edward Kleban wrote the lyrics.

Reservations for performances at the Desert Inn are taken daily, beginning at 10 a.m., by calling 733 - 4566. The show is dark on Mondays.

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