

LAS VEGAS SHOWCASE

Bill Willard's VEGASTARS

Comes now my panegyric, my praise for fellow toilers in the vineyard, the actors, actresses, crew and directional staff of "My Fair Lady." This is a first for Las Vegas, one of the most popular musicals in history playing at the Meadows Playhouse through July 31. The book and lyrics by ALAN JAY LERNER to music by FREDERICK LOEWE, adapted from BERNARD SHAW'S "Pygmalion," has lilting tunes and patter songs beyond description, clever, insinuating and within reach of everyone children to oldsters. Working with me and having fun warbling and emotion are leading cohorts, HARRY HAMBLY, a find as Henry Higgins; B.J. DOOLAN, a guttersnipe changing to lovely, fair lady, Eliza Doolittle; the irrepressible BOBBY SARGENT, putting all his comedy forces to work as Alfred P. Doolittle and Zoltan Karpathy; another find in VERLOREE BADER in the role of Mrs. Higgins; SCOTT DAVIDSON, the imploring Freddy Eynsford-Hill, who will wander forever on the street where Eliza lives; JANET IRELAND, who fits the role of Mrs. Pearce perfectly, and such worthies as GEORGE NOVOTNY, who becomes the supreme gentleman's gentleman amid fast-change cockney parts; JEFF GRANSTROM in several diverse makeups; DAVID HARRIS, a howl as Lord Boxington, also romping through his cockney lines; HEIDI DIXON as Freddy's upper-clawss suffering mother; LARRY SMITH, from Greek diplomat to cockney roughneck and the beautifully femmes who double and triple from ladies to maids to dancers VICKI JOHNSON, LYNN HUMPHRIES, GLENDA ASPER, TRACY CAMPBELL, LINDA CURTIS, and LISA WUNDERLICH.... Taking the words and music from script and score to fruition has been achieved with marvelous touches by director JUDITH BRENNER, the associate artistic director of Meadows Playhouse. She is aided and abetted by a most adept assemblage of talented people with BOB BALL, musical conductor; TERRY McFALL, costume

director and set director; RICH HALL, technical director; CHERYL SPIES, stage manager; director's assistant and head of props, TERRI AARON; board operator and head electrician, DAVID ROLAND; the stage movers & shakers, RAY DIERKS, LAURA GORDON & DEBBIE PETERSON and properties REBA SAIGER & ALBERT FRY, not to forget others who heave and ho backstage and sidestage in numerous duties and assignments, whose names escape me for the moment. But, I shall find out who they are by the next issue and give them all due credit.

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"42nd Street" is definite at Caesars Palace opening in May 1983 as CP prez HARRY WALD made the announcement confirming what everybody knew weeks ago...COMSAT is committing \$225,000,000 to Satellite Television Corp. (STC) starting with \$35,000,000 beaming facility on 36 acres near Tule Springs north of the city. To penetrate the pay-vee market in '86, target for operations if okayed by the FCC, "will cost us about a billion dollars when we go nationwide," according to JUDY ELNICKI, who heads the public affairs office for STC....IRS has offered probation to 26 L.V. Hilton dealers indicted last year on not paying taxes on tips if they each plead guilty to one count of evading taxes for a year...Attorneys BRIAN BREEDLOVE AND HAROLD GEWERTER are trying to get some input from JOAN & BOBBY BEROSINI'S simians in the \$30,000,000 lawsuit against L.A.-based Gentle Jungle Inc. Gentle Jungle claims they trained the orangutans for the CLINT EASTWOOD pic "Every Which Way But Loose," but the BEROSINI'S, in "Jubilee" at MGM Grand, say Manis, Popi and Tiga were the three used to create the character of Clyde in "EWWBL"... Vegas hosts 27 conventions this month with Professional Photographers of America's having top delegate count of 6,000, based at the Hilton and Convention Center for the seminars, exhibits and shoots.

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BEACH BOYS have warbled their golden California surfersongs in Vegas but at Aladdin Theatre for the Performing Arts in concert, so the current MGM Grand date for a week will be main showroom debut here....At the Aladdin

TPA Ted Nugent and Blackfoot rocked last Friday, with HEART & COUGAR arriving on the 16th...Hottest native group is SAILON headed by violinist RICK SAILON, with fusion jazz-rock. Quarter, with Sailon also on guitar, MICHELLE ROHL, lead vocals, PHIL FRIEDMAN, bass and backup vocals and MIKE FAICONE, drums, got the big break when they opened for PETER FRAMPTON at a UNLV concert last October....TONY ROMA left town for London and Sardinia, as partner ARTHUR BLANK, wife NORMA, daughter JOELLE and granddaughter LORI touched base briefly then jetted to London where BLANK and ROMA are eyeing another TONY ROMA rib franchise outlet. They've rented Monique Van Voren's home in Sardinia for July & August.

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FRANK SINATRA returned to Caesars with NANCY S, and CHARLIE CALLAS for a week followed by a WAYNE NEWTON frame. Both CHER & FREDDIE ROMAN will be back at CP on the 29th for two....This is TONY ORLANDO's last shot at the Hilton through the 26th, ditto BILL COSBY who follows before entry of "Bal du Moulin Rouge" Sept. 1. NORM CROSBY is with ORLANDO and LEO SAYER tries his Vegas showroom sings with COSBY....Sign of the times perhaps -- Desert Inn has reduced minimum for "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" from \$25 to \$20 for early show, \$15 midnight. Show's star, JUNE TERRY, was made an offer from GIANNI RUSSO ("The Godfather") she couldn't refuse when he made his posh dinery State Street available for cast party celebrating "TBLWIT's" 1500 perf.... Lounging around finds the DIAMONDS in the Sahara Casbar and new bill at Union Plaza with SHERI SALAS, VERNON CARR and RAPHAEL MUNNINGS.

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