

LAS VEGAS

SHOWCASE



If you wanna know what kind of pap we pillarists are fed by eager pufflicity hypens, here's a sample by the firm that is hired to flack FRANK SINATRA at Caesars Palace, among other prestigious accounts. Get a load of this gaga from SOLTERS/ROSKIN/FRIEDMAN INC. in Los Angeles: "Somebody at the Dunes Hotel in Las Vegas must have dropped a mirror and broken it about seven years ago in the general area of the Main Showroom, because the bad luck has just worn off! For the first time in seven years, the Dunes had to hire extra security to control the sold-out crowd for 'DREAM STREET,' the dazzling new musical sensation in the Dunes Casino Theatre which has taken the city by storm. The 'DREAM STREET' line stretched from the fifth crap table to outside the Dunes front door, proving that produ-

cers RON and NANCY HOROWITZ' gamble on the 16 extraordinarily talented singers, dancers, and actors in this celebration of how our favorite idols and songs affect our grandest dreams was a good solid bet. Wonder how the tables are doing. ('DREAM STREET' is our interest)... Now if you believe that nonsense, I'll sell you some acres of land somewhere near Wheeler

"SOPHISTICATED LADIES" AT D.I.

Three fantastically talented performers lead the terrific cast of "Sophisticated Ladies" onto the Desert Inn's stage twice nightly except Monday. Starring in this musical tribute to the legacy of Duke Ellington are Paula Kelly, Harold Nicholas and Freda Payne. No strangers to the music of the Duke, each brings a special brand of magic to the show. Dancer Paula Kelly

recently completed a successful nine-month run in the Los Angeles company of "Sophisticated Ladies." She also appeared as a special guest star in the national live cable telecast of the musical. She has many Broadway and national stage credits, the most notable her leading performance in the Los Angeles production of "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope."

Harold Nicholas, who also appeared in the Los Angeles production of "Sophisticated Ladies," is part of the famous Nicholas Brothers dance team. He has performed in vaudeville, films, television, theatre, and nightclubs, including the legendary Cotton Club where he appeared with Duke Ellington. His other stage credits include two long-running and popular San Francisco attractions: "Evolution of the Blues" and "Stompin' at the Savoy."

Freda Payne, who joined the "Sophisticated Ladies" company for its Las Vegas run, has been a premier vocalist since the 1960s. One of her singing jobs was with the Duke Ellington Band. Her single "Band of Gold," was an instant gold record hit, followed by another gold record titled "Bring the Boys home." Freda Payne has appeared on stage in "The Pearl Bailey Revue," "Lost in the Stars," and the Broadway musicals "Hallelujah," and "Daddy Goodness." Recently, she hosted her own television talk show, "Today's Black Woman."

"Sophisticated Ladies" features classic songs by Ellington, notably "Satin Doll," "Mood Indigo," "Take the 'A' Train," "In a Sentimental Mood," and "Sophisticated Lady."

For reservations, call 733-4566.

Peak north of Pioche...Just about 20 years ago TOM JONES dropped the family name WOODWARD after the success of the ALBERT FINNEY movie "Tom Jones" and 18 years since his first of many hits, "It's Not Unusual." TJ is still in there pitching his pelvis at Caesars Palace with some yockables up front by GEORGE WALLACE...There'll be some 5000



SOPHISTICATED -- GEORGE RATLIFF AND BETH BOWLES IN A SCENE FROM THE TONY AWARD - WINNING MUSICAL, "SOPHISTICATED LADIES," NOW ON STAGE AT THE DESERT INN.

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