

"SOPHISTICATED LADIES" AT DI



SOPHISTICATED GENTLEMAN -- FANTASTIC CHOREOGRAPHY COMPLETES THE INCOMPARABLE MUSIC OF DUKE ELLINGTON AS "SOPHISTICATED LADIES" CONTINUES ITS FRESH-FROM BROADWAY RUN AT THE DESERT INN.

It's definitely a "Sophisticated Ladies." This stunning class act. This stunning song and dance experience is a tribute to the life and music of the great Duke Ellington.

The classy Desert Inn and Country Club presents Las Vegas with the classiest musical ever --

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 Nickolas, 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."

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