

"Bottoms Up": From Two Weeks To Twenty-Seven Years Now At The Mint MerriMINT Theatre Lounge



"Bottoms Up '84," America's longest running comedy revue is now at the Mint MerriMINT theatre lounge with no cover charge. Showtimes are Friday and Saturday 8 P.M., 10 P.M. & 12 Mid-night. Showtimes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are 8 P.M. & 10 P.M.

In early July, 1958, the Adolphus Hotel's Century Room in Dallas was booking such greats as Liberace, Sophie Tucker and Joe E. Lewis. Planning to close for the summer months, the management decided to give a home-grown revue a two-week trial run.

"We signed a contract for \$950 a week," recalls BRECK WALL, "and had to split the money among ten people. The management tossed in a one-bedroom suite the size of a bedroom closet, and that was funnier than the show. Four girls slept in the bedroom and six guys were on the floor in the parlor. When you're young, and hungry and ambitious, things like that never matter. I think of that place every time I smell baloney!"

Hilton International In Sydney, Australia Granted Kosher License

NEW YORK, NEW YORK — The Hilton International Sydney has been granted a Kosher License and is now able to provide full-service Kosher catering. The Rabbinat of the Yeshiva Center in Sydney supervises all Kosher functions at the Hotel.

Other Hilton International hotels worldwide offering Kosher functions include the Cavalieri Hilton International in Rome and the London Hilton on Park Lane, as well as the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv Hiltons.

Spearheading food and beverage programs in Australia is Mr. Oded Lifschitz, Executive Assistant Manager in charge of food and beverage at the Hilton International Sydney. Mr. Lifschitz, a native of Israel, spent nine years in the United Kingdom training at the well-known Blackpool Hotel and Catering Administration School and working as assistant food and beverage manager at London's Cumberland Hotel before joining Hilton International in Israel.

Mr. Lifschitz was assistant food and beverage manager at both the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv Hiltons; manager of catering operations to the Knesset; and food and beverage manager at the Jerusalem Hilton.

His experience in catering procedures is proving valuable at the Hilton International Sydney, where he took up his present post a year ago. The hotel can cater for up to 2,000 persons at banquets, and is looking forward to offering a wide range of Kosher functions.

Las Vegas Israelite

With the cast, BRECK WALL set about creating a revue of comedy skits, blackouts and song and dance numbers. "I loved Olsen and Johnson, who were a screwball comedy team in the '40's," explains Breck. "I was crazy about their "Hellzapoppin" show, and I wanted to do something similar. I also needed a catchy name, and decided to take the name of the show from a toast. I went through several of them, like Cheers and "On the Rocks," before coming to "Bottoms Up." Back then, "BOTTOMS UP" meant a toast. I guess today the title sounds like it has something to do with rear ends!"

"BOTTOMS UP" was an immediate success, and its two week engagement was extended for two years (at no increase in salary). Looking to move the show to another location, BRECK struck a percentage deal with Jack Ruby and his Carousel Club. "He said he would split the boxoffice if we brought our revue in, but he screwed us," explained BRECK. "We took the booking out of desperation because we wanted to keep the show together. After a month, I went to see Ruby for money. He wound up throwing me down the stairs! So we quit the Carousel and moved on to other theatres."

Years later, the day after President Kennedy was shot, Jack Ruby inexplicably called BRECK to complain about one of his arch rivals in Dallas. The next morning, Ruby gunned down Lee Harvey Oswald. The FBI hounded BRECK for years about that mysterious phone call from Ruby, finally accepting the fact that it had been an ordinary phone call from a distressed man.

"BOTTOMS UP" went on to its Las Vegas debut in 1966, following continuous engagements throughout Texas. Posting well over 20,000 performances in Las Vegas alone, "BOTTOMS UP" has sold out in runs at such hotels as Caesars Palace, Flamingo, Tropicana, Hacienda, Hilton Las Vegas, Casataways, Sahara and its recent run at the Sands. In addition to productions throughout the U.S., "BOTTOMS UP" has also played to enthusiastic audiences in Japan, Australia, Canada, France, Mexico and the Bahamas, among other

Happy New Year

countries.

In addition to "BOTTOMS," BRECK and his coproducer of thirteen years, PATRICK MAYHES, have also produced such shows as "Jubilation," "Las Vegas, Las Vegas," "Wow," "Legs," "Naughty But Nice," "Scandals," and the Imperial Palace's two year engagement of "Bravo Vegas." Through the years, the pair have given work to over 15,000 performers and crew members. With "BOTTOMS UP", cast members average seven to nine years with the production.

"BOTTOMS UP" reflects the constant revision and updates that each edition goes through under the artful hands of BRECK and Patrick. Sketches are revamped to match locales or current events and celebrity parodies created to keep up with those new to the public eye. Over the years those personalities put up against the BRECK WALL have included Jimmy Carter, Elizabeth Taylor, Dolly Parton, Ted Kennedy, Willie Nelson, Coni Francis, President Reagan, and now, Michael Jackson.

Over the years, BOTTOMS UP has earned numerous awards and recognitions, including BEST REVUE IN LAS VEGAS, a four time winner, nine years in a row as Reno's number one revue (Reno Gazette-Journal), has won BEST REVUE OF THE YEAR in Dallas, Houston, Phoenix and Australia. The show has also earned a high production price tag. "The first BOTTOMS UP cost \$1,200. to stage," remembers BRECK. "That was the sum of my savings after college. Now, it requires up to \$90,000 to mount a production of the revue."

What is in the future for producers WALL and MAES? "One day, I will have the budget to do what I would really like to do with a big show," comments BRECK. How much? "A million dollars! I respect Donn Arden (producer of Las Vegas' MGM spectaculars). He's brilliant at creating things. I know he has the money to work with, but it takes someone very strong to pull things together. There are a lot of people I admire, and I know I could do the same as they if I had the budget - one of these days I will!"

WJC Leader Meets With President Of Venezuela

CARACAS (WNS) — President Jaime Lusinchi, at a meeting here with World Jewish Congress president Edgar Bronfman, said he was issuing instructions to the Venezuelan delegation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva to vote against a Kuwait draft resolution which equates Zionism with racism.

Bronfman, on the final leg of a Latin American tour, met with the Venezuelan leader during an hour-and-a-half session at the Presidential palace here. Bronfman was accompanied by Walter Czenstochowski, president of the Venezuelan Jewish community, and Elan Steinberg, executive director of the WJA-American Section.

According to Steinberg, Lusinchi was extremely forthcoming on a host of issues of Jewish concern declaring his great affection for the Jewish community and proudly displaying the menorah he had previously received as a gift from the government of Israel.

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