

LAS VEGAS SHOWCASE



I have been receiving buckets of buttons from MICHAEL LEVINE Public Relations firm in Ellay and New York hyping the Hilton's "Bal du Moulin Rouge" star SUZANNE SOMERS and I want everyone to share my good fortune. Therefore, to the first dozen readers who send in a 25-page letter, more or less, describing how much they enjoyed looking at her in Playboy, I will send a SUZANNE button. For those who respond rapidly, say in the next year or two, I will present a bonus of either a palm tree or pine tree seedlings free of charge. The palms blew in from across the street via strong southerly winds and the pines hatched from cones dropped by our giant Aleppo, one of the sexiest Aleppos in town judging by the birth rate...People were in a quandary about what happened to DENNIS DAY, the lilting tenor who sang and stooged for JACK BENNY years ago. He appeared in Las Vegas once or twice in the '50s, then dropped out. Now, he's back to appear in Las Vegas at a senior citizens benefit concert with another star of bygone years of a sister singing team, MAXINE ANDREWS. They'll be pealing forth Sunday, 3 and 6:30 p.m. at Las Vegas High School auditorium. Proceeds will go to CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES SENIOR PROGRAMS. I love the line in the publicity release about the DAY/ANDREWS affair -- "No children under the age of 35 admitted without a parent or grandparent." For ticket info, call 646-6682. They cost \$7.50 per senior...The art community hopes that

Assemblymen JERRY FAIRCHILD, PAT LITTLE and GARY LEE ROBERTS will not stick their long noses and philistine mentality into the art current art contest through Sept. 24 to discover a theme for the first anni PRCA National Finals Rodeo in December. Many of the artists will be depicting naked horses, which will shock the small minds of the trio of legislators. You remember the flap last week when THE THREE MOSQUITOS stung JOHN MICHAEL DODIG's exhibit at Charleston Heights Center demanding an immediate shutdown of the artist's exhibit, "Meters-of-Selfhood," assemblages of dolls and toys in some rather unique metaphors of our life and times. Former state Sen. BILL HERNSTADT came to the rescue of Arts Center supervisor PATRICIA HARRIS, pronouncing THE THREE MOSQUITOS' snit, "the witch hunt of the year" and whacked 'em with "the idea of book-burning -- or art-burning -- is not a characteristic of a democracy." Which neatly mixed a mess of metaphors.



Good news for lovers of true comedy with Chaplinesque touches when GEORGE CARL joins the Flamingo Hilton's "City Lites" icy-dancer Sept. 7 with the GARZA BROTHERS & PENDRAGONS. Carl is a refugee from the Crazy Horse in Paris with recent local shifts in the Tropicana's "Folies Bergere" and before that in the Desert Inn's "One of a Kind," which he certainly is. In the Casino Lounge WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL shares space with BACH, the latter no relation to JOHANN SEBASTIAN...For tickets to view the JERRY LEWIS MDA TELETHON at Caesars Palace, free to the public, pick them up on the taping date, Sunday, Sept. 1, or Monday, Sept. 2 at the Olympic Casino Box Office inside the north casino entrance. No advance reservations. The telethon will be staged and

televised live from CP Pavilion for 21-1/2 hours starting Sunday (1), 6 p.m. Families wishing to see SIEGFRIED & ROY's "Beyond Belief" at the Frontier with the nudies all covered, mammarily unnaturally, can take the 11 kids and dad to the showroom Saturday Sept. 7 for the 6 p.m. blast...SONNY KING is treating customers of the Four Queens French Quarter with his usual tasty vocals and some offbeat comedy afternoons daily except Sunday. He'll depart Sept. 1 and the very engaging CATHY O'SHEA's pop concepts will be the things to hear afternoons from 1 to 5...LIBERACE's new find (with the help of PAT & HARRY COLE and BW, will be showcased at Caesars Palace for two weeks opening next Wednesday. He's 13-year-old piano whizkid ERIC HAMELIN, a youngster with prodigious keyboard talent in the grand manner a la LIBERACE...Pretty BONNIE GRAHAM sings nightly except Tuesdays in the Sahara's Casbar lounge...Another hot lounge act to catch is BABE & THE CHASERS at the Sands.



FRED DOUMANI, gnoshing buffet goodies after the PLACIDO DOMINGO "Antologia de la Zarzuela" Riviera performance was upbeat about the "Cotton Club" VCR response here and Europe. "Wait until we do the long version," he beamed. He's looking forward to GREGORY HINES' date at MGM Grand Thursday with RAY CHARLES for a week and holdover for RICH LITTLE's fortnight. On another tack -- "If we can unload our Golden Nugget shares, we won't need bank financing," he said, referring to his and brother ED's planned revise of the El Morocco on the Strip upward into a 16-story tower. Both DOUMANIs \$28,000,000 backers of the "Cotton Club," are hoping to highrise their El Morocco in the Fall...Meanwhile Golden Nugget

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DOWNTOWN-6TH & FREMONT

David Martinez Fools The Audience In "FlamBOyant Follies" At The Mint

David Martinez could be a story out of "Fame." He attended the High School of Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, studying drama and dance, and waiting for that all-important break into show business.

About a year ago, Martinez who has the ability to transform himself into an exact lookalike of Diana Ross, Prince and Liza Minelli got his chance. He now appears nightly in the Breck Wall-Patrick Maes production of "FlamBOyant Follies," the newest revue at Del Webb's Mint Casino Hotel.

"He is unrecognizable in costume, the result of a slow, sometimes difficult process. Padding must be applied to his slight build, all held in place and molded to the proper feminine shape

by wearing many layers of dancer's tights. Then come the wig, high heels and makeup.

"I've learned to do the makeup in about a half hour," says Martinez, who further confuses audiences by appearing under the stage name of Tina Renee. "The padding and dressing can take much longer, and the dancer's tights have a tendency to squeeze my toes until they're numb," he adds.

To perfect each impersonation he watches videos and films and catches a live performance when he can. "Diana Ross is my favorite," he says with the awe of a true fan. "I hope I'll be able to see her here in Las Vegas and pick up on anything new."

In his spare time, twenty-one-year-old Martinez works on new

material and puts his drawing talent to work on sketches for costume designs. "I don't have a lot of time for sightseeing, when I do have some time I like to spend it with my friends."

After performing in two to three shows every night, Martinez admits he prefers to indulge in the most precious commodity for anyone who works into the early morning hours - sleep!

Downtown's Mint presents "FlamBOyant Follies" Monday through Friday at 9:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m., and Saturdays at 9:30 p.m., 12:30 a.m. and 2 a.m., dark on Sundays. Sunday evenings at 8 p.m. audiences are treated to Sandy Hackett's Talent Showcase.

For more information or reservations, call the Mint at 387-MINT, or call the direct show reservations line, 366-7346.