

BILLY ROWE'S NOTEBOOK....

THE WRITE BET

N'York City - "Guys and Dolls," born on the B'way scene with a heart in 1950, is alive and well again in '76 with a soul. The odds are 1000-to-1 that this marvelous sun-tanned, afro-coiffeured cast revival will be loved by the habitués of the illuminated lane for a long time. The opening night audience greeted it with contagious enthusiasm and combustible applause. Its success was a total cast effort which reatured thespians like Babe Wallace, Walter White and Ken Page high-lighting the starship of James Randolph, Ernestine Jackson, Robert Guillaume, and Norma Donaldson. The combined talent of its 36 cast members, and the guys and golls pit ork, added spice to the music and lyrics of Frank Loesser as they embraced the Joe Swerling and Abe Burrows book with love and care to make this the fastest musical to enter the B'way sweepstakes this season. Thank heaven for "Guys and Dolls" which proves that the play is the thing, and can be made by the players with talent which by and large is colorless.

Natalie Cole, the King's daughter, walked away with the grand prize of the Tokyo Music Festival. Her rendition of "Mr. Melody," penned by Marvin Yancy and Chuck Jackson won the grand prize of 10G's. The Pointer Sister's stylish voicing of Stevie Wonder's "Bring Your Sweet Stuff Home to Me" won the gold prize as some 20,000,000 Japanese viewers watched... The football classic for the benefit of the Arthur Logan Memorial Hosp at Yankee Stadium has been cancelled. The black college grid teams, scheduled to run for the uprights, wanted too much cash to participate. A citizen committee, to save the hosp, has been formed and is seeking another avenue to pump in the necessary dough to keep the edifice open...The 47th convention of the AKA soro was hillited by the Emme Kemp Trio background sounds for "Great Scotts," a fashion show creation of designed Scott Barrie. Emme, by the by, has departed "Bubbling Borwn" to tend to personal musical chores while pushing some of the songs she composed for the hit musical.

A glittering B'way rumor is that Gail Lumet, Lena Horne's daughter, may become the first legit theatre producer. She is the spouse of film-dir Sidney Lumet, and is said to be planning a production revival of "The Philadelphia Story" which starred Katherine Hepburn, Shir-

ley Booth, Joseph Cotton, and Van Heflin in the Spring of '39 and has since enjoyed 2-flick versions...Sidney Poiter has packed up all of his N'York belongings for a permanent address on the west coast where he is preparing for his 3rd flick a-la "Up Town"... The astute Marie Byrd Jackson has been separated from her position as asst to the EEOC chairperson, and has she got a story to tell...The benefit concert, "An Evening with Leontyne Price," at Carnegie Hall, cost the mid-Manhattan NAACP \$33,256.24 to produce and netted \$43,439.26...Billy Dee Williams will star in a limited 10 wks engagement of "I Have A Dream," based on the words and writings of the immortal Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The film-made matinee idol has also been taped by NBC for its world premiere movie, "Scott Joplin - King of Ragtime," Cat Carney will co-star in this drama about the life and music of the first recognized black composer. It is a Motown prod in assn with Universal TV and NBC.

Sammy Davis, Jr. will be paid 80G's per evening for a 5 day tour of W. Germany with a top ticket price of 32 bucks. The Sept concert jaunt will also take him to Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Zurich, Vienna, Antwerp, and Paris...Diana Ross' stint at the Palace brought \$212,198 thru the turnstiles...Madeline M. Jackson, who's running in the Olympics will retire for the second time and seek her fortune in the gospel wax whirl. She has an original on the Paragon label, "Running for Jesus"...Sen. Ed Brooke will make an international headline announcement after his pending divorce becomes final...The society rumor mills are grinding out items about tennis great Arthur Ashe and Hawaiian beauty queen Louis Wise...Cab Calloway's, 282 pgs of nostalgia, "of Minnie the Mocher & Me" is in the book-stalls. Dedicated to his sister, Blanche, his wife and family who gave him happiness, it is co-authored by news' guy Bryant Rollins...Ossie Davis and the Delta Sigma soro are building up plans to re-issue "Countdown at Kusini." The flick was exhibited by Columbia in 25 theatres for a short 2 wks and then yanked. It could cost the Delta's a lot of dough and set back the black financing of film fare too far...Senator Hugh Scott, (R-Penn) has just announced a 185G's grant to OIC to expand the program of job training and placement for inner-city and rural youths. This

will have to be matched by Rev. Leon Sullivan's org by \$61,667 for a total of \$246,667 to help establish 8 new centers...Lou Gossett is being trained in the art of deep sea diving for his role in "The Deep" co-starring Robert Shaw, Jacqueline Bisset and Nick Nolte. The flick is now on location in the British Virgin Islands for underwater filming and will later move to Bermuda for three months of shooting...Aretha Franklin is in the gold circle again with "Sparkle," the Curtis Mayfield music from the pic of the same title...The Department of Justice has the Bide-A-Wee Golf Club, Portsmouth, Va., under a civil suit seige. Charges are that the city, who sold the land, and all concerned have violated the public accomodations section. The Civil Rights Act of '64 by excluding blacks.

They're still talking about the \$100 worth of chittlings Cathy Chance sent from the Red Rooster to the posh Waldorf for the lucky ones at the AKA Convention...Dr. Fred Black, Gen Electric's multi-talented exec, has been snagged by Berkeley Burrell, prez, to insure the success of the late Sept confab of the Nat'l Business League in DeeCee. It will be a gathering of the top wheels of gov't and enterprise...The nation's recording companies have racked-up the best quarter in history with revenues up 43% and profits up 71% so h'cum they're not advertising in our newspapers?...STAY LOOSE

Eddie Kendricks and the Temprees on Soul Train



tations now riding the crest of his popularity as a single performer, delights with "Chains," "He's a Friend," and "Never Gonna Leave you."

The Temprees, a trio of Memphis natives who turned professional in 1970, swing forth on the high rated "I Found Love On a Disco Floor" and "There Ain't a Dream Been Dreamed."

Their first album, "Love Men," contained such best-selling singles as "Baby Love," "Dedicated To the One I Love" and "We've Only Just Begun."

Also featured are the Soul Train Dancers whose original renditions of the latest dance steps are a high point of each week's show.

Soul Train is produced by Cornelius and sponsored by Johnson Products Co., manufacturers of hair care products and cosmetics especially for Blacks.

It's an all male show this weekend as host Don Cornelius welcomes Eddie Kendricks and The Temprees to the spotlight on Soul Train, Kendricks, former lead singer with the Temptations now riding the crest of his popularity as

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