

Entertainment



NEIL HOFFMAN AND PAT BASS
Photo by Susan Schreiber

Introducing The NEW 5th Dimension

By Neil Hoffman

When the moon is in the Las Vegas sky and Rickles aligns with the Sahara Hotel, you can also see the Fifth Dimension group. Well, you COULD HAVE SEEN this group up through last Wednesday night; these five fine musicians have

gone on to an engagement in Bermuda and then back home to Southern California, to make way for Eddie Fisher, who's finishing out the week with Don Rickles in the Sahara Congo Showroom. The Fifth Dimension will surely be back, however; and when it is, you'll be able to hear the group sing its hits medley ("Up, Up & Away," "Stoned Soul Picnic," "Wedding Bell Blues" and "Age Of Aquarius/Let The Sunshine In"), as well as tunes now on the charts or shortly to be there, such as the group's original composition. (See 5th page 20)

Music ★★★★★★ Under The Stars with Betty Brown

SAHARA TALENT SHOWCASE held each Monday night has been the stepping stone for many talented acts who would not otherwise have had an avenue to be seen or heard. Reggie Griffin, an up and coming local comic talent, is a product of the showcase. Now there's another good showcase on the scene, the MAXIM TALENT SHOWCASE held Sundays from 8 p.m. in the CLOUD NINE LOUNGE. Interested acts for the Maxim Hotel should contact the hotel's entertainment department at 731-4300, ext. 4377.

"IPI TOMBI," the award-winning African high-energy show that appeared at the SILVERBIRD HOTEL AND CASINO on the Strip, is now appearing at the HUNTINGTON HOTEL THEATRE in Los Angeles. Columnist Bill Lane has an interesting article, in this issue of the SENTINEL about the group and the problems they encountered while here in Las Vegas.

LAS VEGAS HILTON will be busting at the seams July 8 thru 28 when BILL COSBY and SISTER SLEDGE combine for a raging comic-f-a-m-i-l-e-e show to top all others.

LAS VEGAS CIVIC SYMPHONY, under the direction of Bill Gromko, will present a concert at 2 p.m. on June 29 at the CHARLESTON HEIGHTS ARTS CENTER, 800 S. Brush St. For information call 386-6383.

THEATRE EXPOSED will present the musical-comedy "BABES" through June 29 at the REED WHIPPLE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER, 821 Las Vegas Blvd., North. Call 386-4923 for information.

SPINNERS, at long last, will be making their well-deserved mark at the MGM GRAND HOTEL's Celebrity Room July 3 thru 16...from all appearances, it will experience sellouts nightly.

RUBEN BULLOCK did himself proud with the grand opening at Westside's newest restaurant, WESTSIDE STORY last Thursday. Many community leaders and well-wishers were on hand to give Ruben Bullock a well-deserved send-off. EAGLE EYE SHIELDS and his Jazz Combo have those tantalizing sounds that send the house nightly into the top musical showcase in town...and one should not forget the SOUL CUISINE that's served around the clock. The WESTSIDE STORY is open 24 hours every day.

Black Columnist Says 'Ipi Tombi' Is Racist

Meadows Playhouse 'Makes You Laugh'

"I want to see a play that makes me laugh and forget inflation, the energy crunch, gasoline shortage and soaring interest rates." And forget you will when The Meadows Playhouse opens the "Frolicking Fourth Season" September 16 by bringing back, due to popular demand, the outrageous, zany, musical review, "Hot Ginger and Dynamite" by Suzanne Buhner.

The original comedy played the Playhouse for the first time January 29 through February 23, 1980 and not only broke all previous box office records, it had standing room, only for the last two weeks of the run. The author, Suzanne Buhner performed in Breck Wall's "Bottoms Up" for which she also wrote comedy material. Buhner is also the two time winner of the Las Vegas Award for Female Entertainer of the Year.

The fourth season is primarily a lighter season with comedy such as "Same Time, Next Year" and "Charley's Aunt."

Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" will be the holiday presentation with strong financial support from many corporations, locally, and will be an annual holiday happening for the area.

Each production plays for four weeks with performances at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday with a 2:30 p.m. Saturday matinee. There are a variety of subscription plans to suit everyone's schedule and budget. By purchasing the whole season in advance, subscribers can save as much as 36 percent off the single admission price and be assured of having tickets for every play.

Subscribers have the option of exchanging their tickets when an emergency prevents them from attending on their regular night. Theatre lovers are advised to purchase their subscriptions when the sales open April 15. For more information, contact the Playhouse box office at 4735 So. Maryland Parkway in the University Square Shopping Center. Phone 739-7525.

THE SHOW should be called "Shake Your Booty," for there's so much of it going on in the happy South African musical "Ipi-Tombi" now

of press folk to NYC for the premiere of "The Blues Brothers," starring Dan Aykroyd, John Belushi, Ray Charles, Cab Calloway, James Brown

Bill Lane's Hollywood

on-stage at the Hartford in Hollywood. It's beguiling but betraying, for the pretty songs and many monologues heard by the audience come not from the lips of the performers onstage, and not from a pit orchestra, but from pre-recorded tapes played over the loud-speaker system. The artists merely lip-sync.

Maybe OK for a nightclub, like the Silverbird in Las Vegas, where the show recently closed after a year, but horrible for legitimate stage — even if it did play five years in London. And its story plot, whatever it is, is another of those pretty little vignettes about the country boy who finds the evils of the big city not like back yonder in the country where the people sing and frolic all day. It stresses also that the only harm befalling blacks comes always and only from other blacks. A white-member picket line outside the theatre decried "Ipi-Tombi" as racist. It is.

UNIVERSAL flew scores

and Aretha Franklin. Quite unlike Paramount, which sent hundreds to Houston for "Urban Cowboy," but no blacks. Not even Charlie Pride.

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