

Entertainment

DIANA MOVING TO RIVIERA

Riviera Hotel has made it official.

Singing superstar Diana Ross will become a member of their amazing family of entertainers in mid-1981, immediately following the end of her contract with Caesars Palace.

Along with Kenny Rogers, Barry Manilow, Dolly Parton, Steve Martin, Anne Murray, Melissa Manchester and Tony Orlando, she will



give the Riviera the most powerful lineup of superstar entertainers

since the Sinatra-Dino "clan" played the Sands more than a decade ago.

The hotel previously announced the signing of Buddy Hackett and Liberace for the 1981 season.

"We are currently negotiating for still another giant name," said entertainment VP Tony Zoppi. "An announcement will be forthcoming shortly"

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Ben Vereen Is Super Talent

By Joe Cross *****

Early on in his performance at the Riviera Hotel, Ben Vereen remarked "if you've come to have a good time, you've come to the right address."

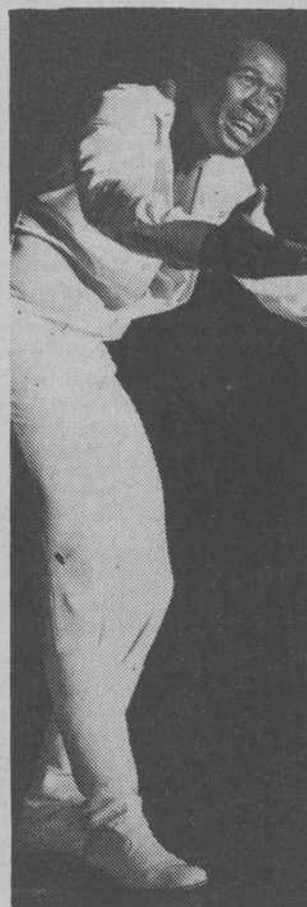
No doubt about it, the audience had found the "right address."

As usual, Vereen walked off the stage opening night of his two-week stop at the Riv's fancy Versailles Theatre feeling on top of the world. He was having such a good time himself, it seemed, that his opening show ran surprisingly long — and his fans loved it.

They gave him, for that matter, a standing ovation at the end — at which even Vereen looked rather surprised.

Vereen's smile lines may be deepening a tad and he's been around long enough now that he can't be considered a neophyte in any sense of the word, yet he maintains that almost boyish charm and disarming smile that's made him a friend of the family sort of actor, dancer and singer.

He really does have a lot going for him onstage. He can get it on with rock 'n roll, and



he's at home singing an old fashioned ballad like "The Way You Look Tonight," with a more modern beat.

He got great hands for his singing — especially for "Still" and "Let's Get Serious," where he also rocked along.

Above all, though,

Vereen is a dancer. Had he gone into sports, Vereen could have been a world-class gymnast. His body control is amazing.

"I knew I wanted to dance at a very young age," he tells the audience. "The beat came from within."

He was good enough as a youngster to get into the New York City Performing Arts High School where he learned his trade.

He learned well and continues to get better as he displayed in a ballet medley, built around a tribute to American composers.

Vereen drew a super hand from the impressed audience as he danced through a variety of styles to tunes like "Rhapsody In Blue," "Take The A Train" and "Summertime," an especially well done segment.

Watching Vereen interact with the audience makes one think that he would have been a millionaire as a preacher back in the revival tent days.

Of course, he's not doing all that bad as an entertainer, when you come right down to it.

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