

# Entertainment

## 'A Chorus Line' Hit At Desert Inn

"God, I hope I get it!" Anybody who's ever gone for a job interview has had those thoughts. In the Broadway musical, "A Chorus Line," now playing in the showroom of the Desert Inn & Country Club on the Las Vegas Strip, those are the first musical words of a group of gypsies (theatrical dancers) auditioning for the line of an upcoming show.

"A Chorus Line" is one of those plays about the theatre, but it is an up to date and totally RELEVANT play about the theatre. It opened in New York five years ago with a cast of 33

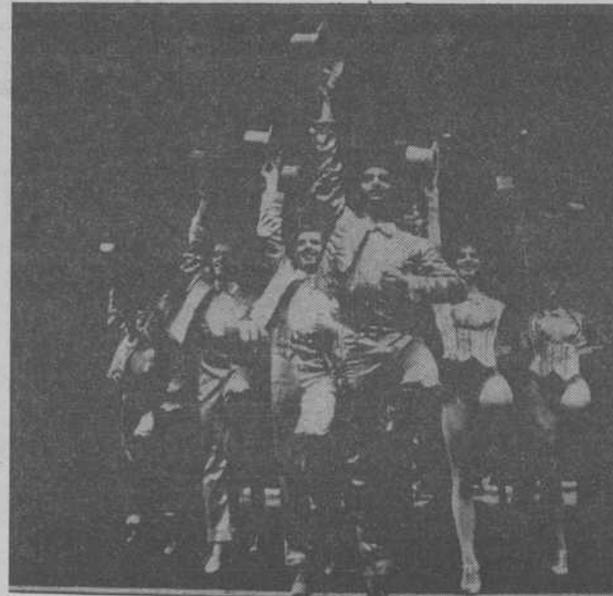
actor/dancers who had told their own stories to choreographer and director Michael Bennett, composer Marvin Hamlisch, writers James Kirkwood and Nicholas Dante, and lyricist Edward. From those stories emerged the meat of "A Chorus Line," in which the 32 auditioning gypsies are asked by Zach, the director, to talk about themselves and thus give him some idea of their different personalities and of how to choose just eight of them to blend together.

So the first cast was playing itself. Subsequent companies, including the

one now at the D.I., are, in a sense, playing the first company.

The show is performed on a bare stage; rear-wall mirrors that turn in and out provide the only scenic effect. The 32 gypsies are in

meaningful show, an artistic show, and also a very enjoyable show. It's being performed here in its entirety (just minus the customary intermission), and the running time is about two hours. Times are once a night, Tuesday-



various types of casual and dance rehearsal clothing, as they would be for an audition. (In one segment, Diana — the role Priscilla Lopez originated, played here by Gay Marshall) is doing a tap dance routine, but the director asks why he cannot hear any taps coming from her. "Must be her sneakers," replies another dancer.

You probably know this by now, but anyway... "A Chorus Line" is a

Thursday and Sunday, at 9:30 and twice a night, at 8 and midnight, on Friday and Saturday (the show is dark on Monday). Admission is \$20, plus tax and tip, which is less than an orchestra seat costs nowadays on Broadway (cocktails are included). The company leaves Vegas after the Dec. 14 show, but is scheduled to return in late January and probably stay through May. Good for them, and if you see "A Chorus Line" while you're in town, it'll be good for you, too!

## Meadows Playhouse Presents Xmas Carol

Scrooge, Tiny Tim and the Cratchits make their holiday debut at the Las Vegas Meadows Playhouse Dec. 9 when the theatre presents Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," as adapted by Philip McKinley, the artistic director of the Playhouse.

The 1980 presentation is the first of five annual stagings of "A Christmas Carol" that is made possible by the generous support of Barbary Coast, Diamonds, Levi Strauss, Marvyn's, Valley Bank, Nevada National Bank and the Nevada Council on the Arts.

McKinley's adaptation tells the story as it's so well-known, with the special added touches of McKinley magic. He "shiny ribbon" on the Christmas

package is the original music and lyrics written by McKinley and Suzanne Buhner, author-performer of "Hot Ginger And Dynamite" the season opener at The Playhouse.

David Harris stars as Scrooge who sings, "when a shilling hits a shilling, it goes 'clink'."

Harris, a character actor and 15 year veteran of "Bottoms Up," heads the cast with actors like Tom Newton, Maryan Stephens and Jane Neeland in other roles. Mark Morger returns to the Playhouse stage in the role of Tiny Tim.

The production is the result of the combined efforts and creative talents of McKinley, Buhner, Terry McFall, Jan Ijams, Ellis Price Jones, Jon Hemmeter, Judy Brenner, among others.

## TV 10 Has Fundraiser

It can be rousing and fun, inspiring and profound; it can make your toes tap and your hands clap, bring a smile to your face or a tear to your eye — it's "Gospel."

Two acknowledged masters of this American musical tradition, Tennessee Ernie Ford and Della Reese, are back with "More Of That Great American Gospel Sound," during public television TV-10's HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER, Friday, December 5 at 9:00 p.m.

Taped live before a spirited full-house at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, "More Of That Great American Gospel Sound" also welcomes Grammy Awards winner Andrae Crouch as its Special Guest Star, along with The Happy Goodman Family, Grandpa Jones and Ramona. Musical accompaniment is by the Bill Walker Orchestra and back-up vocals are by The Nashville Sound in this 90 minute celebration of traditional and contemporary Gospel.

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## Library Musical

The West Las Vegas Library, located at 1402 North "D" Street, is sponsoring "A CHRISTMAS MU-SI-CALE" featuring church choirs from North and West Las Vegas, in special Christmas performances on December 4th, 11th and 18th at 7:00 p.m. We would like for you to join us at this celebration giving us all an opportunity to share a moment of Christmas together. There is no admission. For additional information contact Deborah Church at 647-2118.