

THE PLATTERS ARE BACK! AMERICANS AND RUSSIAN, ALLIES AT THE IMPERIAL PALACE

The Platters left Las Vegas the end of June, closing a very successful engagement at The Dunes, with no plans for an immediate return. Meanwhile, their August booking aboard the QE2 was postponed due to the Falklands crisis. So when the group was asked to return — this time to The Imperial Palace — they were available to do so.

The Platters are more than just a singing group, they are historic. They were the first black group to use strings on their records. They were the first black rock and roll group to include a woman. They have 16 gold records to their credit, and have achieved more Top 10 hits than any other singing group of their era. They have sold more than 100,000,000 records.

Composer, musical director, Producer Buck Ram and his Platters created the sound of the rock and roll ballad, and set the mood for millions of romantic teenagers with an incredible string of hits, "Only You," "The Great

Pretender," "The Magic Touch," "Twilight Time," "My Prayer," "Smoke Gets In Your

"Platterama," a medley of seven of their greatest hits. An album follows sometime this



Eyes," to name a few. PolyGram Records (Mercury label) has just released the single

month. Though the "team" changes, the coach Buck Ram remains the same, and so

does that sold gold sound!

The Platters belong in Las Vegas, it is home. Most Las Vegans don't consider The Platters to be a "local group" since they seldom play here. But the office of The Five Platters, Inc. has been located here since 1963. The local headquarters for The Platters is a buzzing, busy hub for their world-wide operation. It also serves as a business office, rehearsal hall, equipment store-house, record and tape library, recording studio and publicity center. Efficiently running this Platterama is Jean Bennett, the President of The Five Platters, Inc., and owner of Personality Productions, Inc., the organization which handles the management details of The Platters.

The Platters join D'Jan Tatlian, Dave Swan, Jackie Gayle, and The Four Freshmen at The Imperial Palace July 28 for an engagement through Sept. 8. Between them, D'Jan and The Platters have sold over 152 million records. The Imperial Palace will not only have these internationally famous jewels in its crown, but alot of gold as well!

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

N'YORK CITY — It is good to have seen the day when an all black musical walked into history's limelight with six Tony Awards. This was more awards than any other leading contender in the major categories used to appraise the best work and performance of the '81-'82 theatre season. How "DreamGirls" was not judged "Best Musical" I will never know. "Nine," which captured that distinction, distorts my understanding. It won in none of the categories, which in my book, qualified it to be so knighted. It only took one step when it took the Tony for "Best Music and Lyrics." Winning the nod for "Best Featured Actress in a Musical," "Best Costumes" and "Best Director" certainly does not a best musical make. On the other side of the ballot, "DreamGirls," which received thirteen nominations out of the nineteen categories, walked off stage with a half dozen Tonys. All of them were in those important areas necessary to make a "Best Musical." Its Jennifer Holliday was voted as having given the "Outstanding Performance by an Actress" in a Musical. Ben

Harney's award was for having been the most "Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Musical." "The Outstanding Performance by a featured actor in a Musical" was won by Cleavant Derricks.



"Dream" also captured the "Best Book of a Musical," by Tom Eyn. Michael Bennett and Michale Peters won the "Outstanding Choreography" honors. The lighting and design of Tharon Musser was also a winner. Now it seems to this old aisle sitter that these are not only the basic ingredients of a musical, but the most important elements. However, how can one fight with the Tony judges. This go'round was a taste of history for Afro-American performers in the legitimated stage whirl of B'way. It is the first time that so many of them triumphed over competing white stars of comparable talent and surpassed experience. Even a native African, Zeke Mokaie, won a Tony as the "Best Feature Actor in a Play," for his performance in "Master Harold... and the boys," the dream which bares the devastating mental effects of South Africa's apartheid. Their victories were even sweeter because of an open campaign by some critics to have "Nine" count them out. That is "DreamGirls." In these eyes that number is a sad excuse for a musical with only a few performers worth their allotted time on stage. That does not include Raul Julia, who's almost never off. The Tony voted the director Tommy Tune which should have been for nerve. He seems to have little else.

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John Pitts

John brings to the real estate industry a background of mathematics, having been a mathematics teacher for over 20 years. At present John is a teacher with Clark County School District. He doubles as a residential sales person with Toler Realty. John, his wife and daughter arrived in Las Vegas from Gary, Indiana.



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