

# Entertainment

## "SIXTH ANNUAL R&B AWARDS SHOW STAGED IN VEGAS WITH STARS GALORE"

When the cameras started rolling Tuesday evening, May 3rd, in the Grand Ballroom of the Imperial Palace Hotel in Las Vegas, the filming brought together one of the greatest assemblies of R&B talents ever assembled to participate in a singular video taped event.

This particular event was taped of the 6th Annual Rhythm and Blues Awards Show, that will start airing as a television special (2 hours), over an assortment of network and independent television stations across the country weeks later.

Each year this event brings together the available Rhythm and Blues categorized winners from the annual year and Cashbox Magazine Music Poll, plus other previous winners and a select group of popular R&B recording artists, plus industry people and the interested public to witness the filming of this annual music awards show. Whether there to receive an award, present and award, or perform on the show honoring their fellow recording artists, the conglomeration of personalities from the popular field of music known and labeled as R&B Music are all there for a common cause—the taping of the Annual Rhythm and Blues Awards Show, now in its sixth year of running.

With the exception of the very first effort that was filmed in Washington, D.C. six years ago, each previous year's production of the R&B Awards Show has been filmed at Merv Griffin's Studios in Hollywood. This year's production of the Annual Rhythm and Blues Awards Television Special, brought about a locale change. The glitter of Hollywood gave way to the desert playland known as Las Vegas, and the taping took place in the Grand Ballroom of the Imperial Palace Hotel.

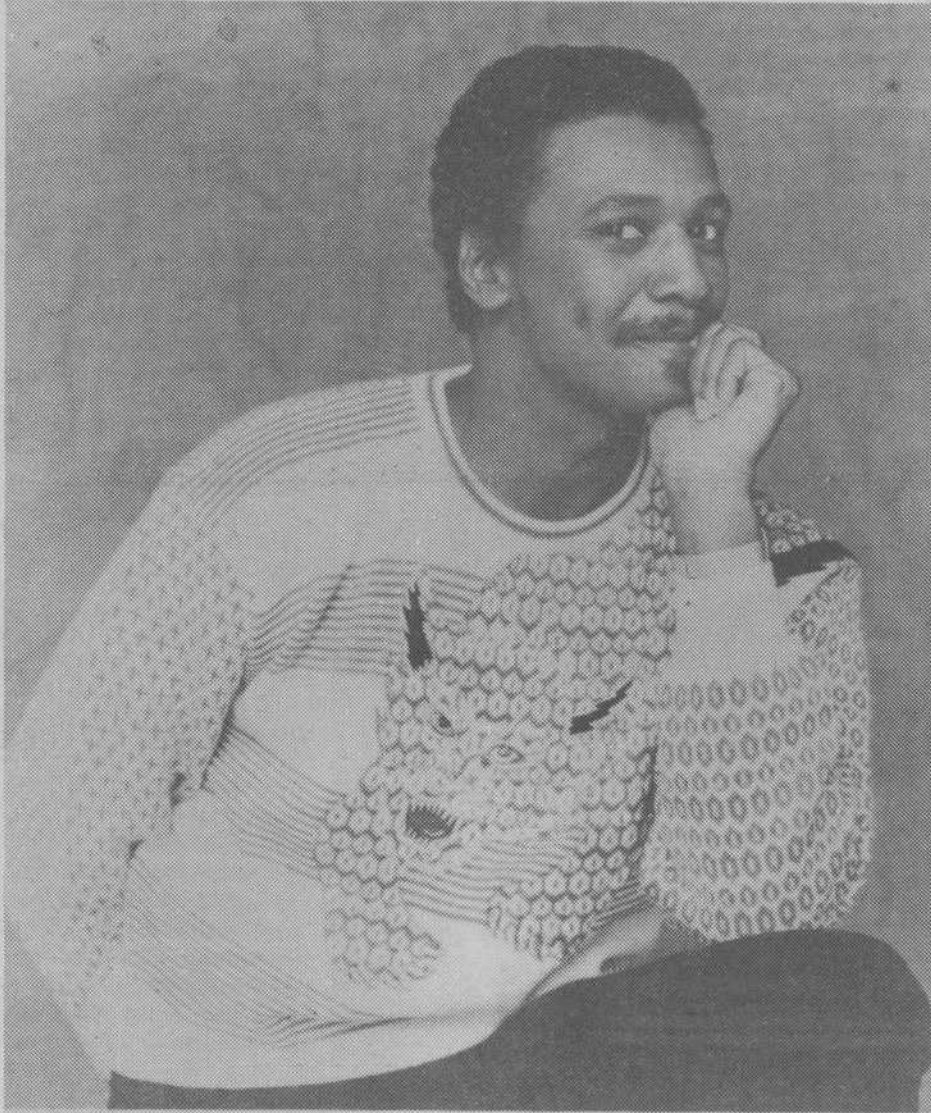
This year's taping of the show departed from the normal studio sit-down audience format. An after six Dinner and

Show, was a new approach for the hundreds of popular R&B Music fans and followers in attendance when the cameras started rolling to capture the star-studded evening of musical activities.

during the taping and gala event; the list of stars and artists participating read like the who's who of show business and then some. The show was hosted by Lola Falana, regarded by critics as the premier

anch of the N.A.A.C.P.

With the first air date set for May 28th, in San Francisco, and better than seventy percent of the markets across the country cleared for subsequent air-dates of the two hour television



RICHARD "DIMPLES" FIELDS DRK Productions, Inc.



Another unique feature of this year's R&B Awards Show, was the chartering of a jet airliner to fly all the participating stars and artists to Las Vegas from Los Angeles. The chartered jet had been dubbed "The Rhythm and Blues Express".

Three Los Angeles radio stations participated in the pre-promotional campaign for the awards show. KJLH/FM, KGFJ/AM and KUTE/FM promoted a contest for their listening audience, and the contest winners traveled on the "Rhythm and Blues Express" to Las Vegas with the stars.

In addition to the winners from the Cashbox R&B Music Poll present to accept their awards

female nightclub entertainer in the world.

Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Rick James, Pointer Sisters, Hall & Oates, Al Jarreau, William King of the Commodores, Helen Reddy, Jeffrey Osbourne, Larry Graham, Lennie White, Rufus, Switch, "D" Train, Marlena Show, Freda Payne, Chic, The Crusaders, Ester Phillips, Millie Jackson, Betty Wright, Deniece LaSalle, ZZ Hill, Richard "Dimples" Fields and David Foster, producer of Dreamgirls were only a part of this spectacular line up of the spectacular line up.

A portion of the proceeds from the "Sixth Annual Rhythm and Blues Awards Show", were donated to the Inglewood/Southbay Br-

special, it stands to reason that this year's R&B Awards Show, will certainly be the biggest and best yet of all the years that the show has been taped and aired. The clearance schedule of television stations carrying the show also lists better showtimes than previous year's schedules and air dates.

Of the major cities cleared for the airing of the "6th Annual R&B Awards Show", the schedule is as follows: New York (7/31) WNBC, Los Angeles, (6/25) KHJ-TV, Philadelphia (6/20) WKBS-TV, Detroit (5/26) WDIV-TV, Washington, DC (6/18) WDMV-TV, St. Louis (6/18) KPLR-TV, Houston (7/17) KHTV-TV; other cities, dates and stations were announced at a later date.

## "COME AND MEET THOSE DANCIN' FEET..." AT CAESARS PALACE!

Caesars Palace, internationally known for doing things bigger and better than anyone else, is about to go one step bigger.

David Merrick's Tony Award-winning musical megasmash, "42nd Street," is about to turn Caesars Palace and all of Las Vegas into The Great White Way, "42nd Street," a Broadway blockbuster sine its August, 1980 opening, opens in the hotel's 1,200-seat Circus Maximus Showroom Friday, May 6, after two preview performances May 4 and 5.

Producer Merrick, one of the most colorful, flamboyant and successful forces in Broadway theatre history, has performed a masterful feat with the two productions of his musical-comedy extravaganza.

The New York company continues to rank as one of Broadway's most popular productions. Amazingly, the "42 Street" ticket is almost as hard a ticket today as it was several seasons past. Merrick sent a company to Chicago and knocked the Windy City on its wind-blown ear. It is the talented Chicago company which will be on display at Caesars Palace the first weekend in May. Like a chess master, Merrick is making nothing but

checkmate moves with his world-class "42nd Street."

The Caesars Palace show principals will be the ebullient and unique Millicent Martin as the egocentric "Dorothy Brock," Ron Holgate as the hell-for-leather director, "Julian Marsh," supertalented Nancy Sinclair as "Peggy Sawyer," the chorus girl who goes onstage to become a "star," and Jim Walton as the singing/dancing and romantic "Billy Lawlor."

The direction is by Lucia Victor, recreating the original concepts and staging of the late Gower Champion. Choreography is recreated from Champion's original by Karin Baker and Randy Skinner. Music and lyrics are by Harry Warren and Al Dubin with a book by Michael Stewart and Mark Bramble.

New York gave "42nd Street" its highest accolades: a Tony Award, endless lines at the box office and superlatives from audiences and critics alike. In Chicago, one theatre reviewer wrote, "A line in the show claims the two most glorious words in the English language are 'musical comedy.'" Two of the most glorious words in musical comedy are "42nd Street".

## 24 HR. POKER!

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