

Entertainment



ARTIST OF THE WEEK

By Lady Essence

The first time you hear the new music by Bobby Nunn, the comparisons will spring quickly to mind. You'll say his brand of free-wheeling funk with a touch of raunch reminds you of Prince of Rick James. But then, you'll get a taste of the soft-soul ballad, "The Party's Over", or his seductive "Never Seen Anything Like you" and you'll realize you're dealing with a rather original musical talent.

Like the title says, Bobby is Second to Nunn and as you start the record over and absorb that fact, you're going to want to know more about this young guy. What you'll find out is impressive.

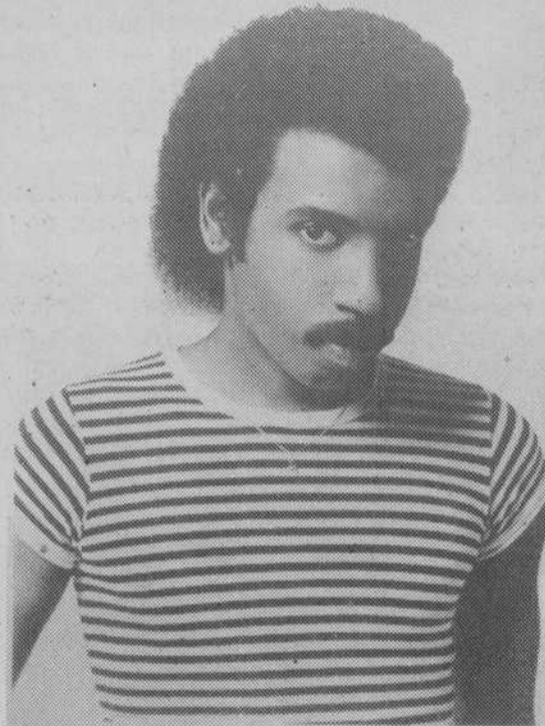
Bobby Nunn wrote or co-wrote virtually every song on this album. He handles all the lead and background vocals, and plays the bulk of the instruments, including the moog, prophet and OBX synthesizers, piano and bass guitar. In addition, Nunn co-produced the album with Winston Monseque and handles all the rhythm arrangements.

One doesn't get the talent to handle all those chores by sitting around twiddling one's thumbs. He's a native of Buffalo, New York, where he recorded mountains of demos and performed in night-clubs with a number of bands and stand-up groups. It was all part of the process of honing his talents and when the time came to show those talents off, Bobby was ready.

In 1978, when an unknown named Rick James was recording his debut album, he turned to Bobby, who brought his own band along to play on the project. Bobby alone handled synthesizers, bocsis, keyboards and some arrangements and even helped coordinate the sessions. The result was a platinum LP called Come Get It. Even as that album was taking off, Bobby was still recording demo

tapes, one of which ended up in the hands of Earth, Wind and Fire's Phillip Bailey. Bailey and Nunn communicated by phone for a few months as Bailey, impressed by what he had heard, tried to arrange a recording deal. After awhile, though, Nunn grew impatient and came to Los Angeles himself. It was in L.A. that he ran across musician Ronnie Foster, who brought him to the attention of Columbia Records.

Columbia was impressed and before long Nunn along with the musicians he had brought to that first Rick James LP, found themselves signed to that label and working together as Splendor. The group's history is short, but it's reasonably sweet. A debut album produced by Phillip Bailey yielded the cart single, "All Night Long." Less than a year ago, Bobby hooked up with the man who would become his manager Winston Monseque.



BOBBY NUNN

Monseque recognized talent when he saw it. He encouraged Bobby to break from Splendor and thus began a period of grooming, working and critiquing, all designed to make what had been good even better.

Bobby sent out only one tape, but it was enough. Motown's Iris Gordy was impressed enough with the tape to push through a deal for Bobby and he became the newest addition to the Motown family of artists. He may end up as one of the most distinguished too. Because, as a listen to the new album makes clear, this is fresh, vital music. Before long, if they're not careful, a whole lot of today's musical leaders just might find themselves running second...to Nunn.

CAESARS PALACE STADIUM TRANSFORMED FOR "CONCERTS UNDER STARS"

In just one week, Mike Brown has transformed the Caesars Palace outdoor stadium into a summer concert arena unequaled in Las Vegas.

Where Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe battle across the net each spring in the popular Caesars Palace Tennis Classic, stars like Merle Haggard, Kenny Rogers, The Beach Boys, George Benson, Kenny Loggins, Johnny Cash and Glen Campbell will draw fans to fill the 9,000 seat outdoor stadium for Caesars Palace's newest entertainment innovation, "Concerts Under the Stars."

The magical transition from sports center to concert arena began this week when Brown and a crew of just seven men raised the scaffolding that will form the 100 foot by 25 foot stage.

The stage will completely replace the grandstands at the north end of the stadium and become the home for the lineup of Superstar entertainers who will appear after dark in the Caesars Palace "Concerts Under the Stars."

Brown, who has been raising grandstands and outdoor stages for 30 years, recently completed his last project in Devore, California, where he built the stage for the US Festival.

The founder of United Production Services,

Brown said the outdoor concert stage at Caesars Palace will eventually resemble the facade of a traditional Roman stage house. Behind the facade, the steel skeleton will hold tons of sound and lighting equipment.

"It is a pleasure working for Caesars Palace," Brown said. "I'm looking forward to this concert series being in a big success."

Country great Merle Haggard will kick off the "Concerts Under the Stars" on June 25 at 11 p.m. This year's recipient of an Academy of Country Music award for his recording of "Are the Good Times Really Over for Good," Haggard's songs have hit the number one spot on the country charts more than 29 times.

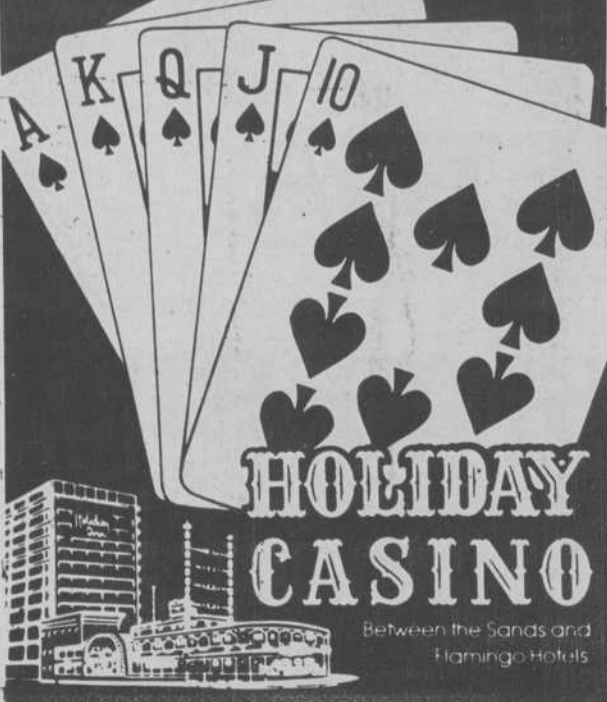
Prices for the Haggard concert are: \$25.00, \$17.50, \$15.00 and \$12.50.

For ticket information on this summer's "Concerts Under the Stars" call Caesars Palace Special Events Ticket Office 731-7865.

The rest of the concert schedule looks like this: KENNY ROGERS - July 2 & 3; THE BEACH BOYS - August 6; GEORGE BENSON - September 23; KENNY LOGGINS - October 1; JOHNNY CASH and GLEN CAMPBELL - October.

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HACIENDA COMEDY STAR - Comedian and television star Redd Foxx stars in his own XXX-rated cocktail show at 10 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, with special late shows (1:30 a.m. seating) Friday and Saturday nights, in the Fiesta Showroom of the Hacienda Resort Hotel and Casino, alternating nightly with the ice and dance spectacular, "Fire & Ice." Call 798-0571 for Fiesta Showroom reservations.

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