

Entertainment

A Legend In His Own Time

MICHAEL JACKSON CAPTURES 7 AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS AND SPECIAL AWARD OF MERIT

By Betty Brown

Imagine receiving an award for "outstanding contributions, over a long period of time, to the musical entertainment of the American public," and for having contributed "a life time of entertainment" at the ripe old age of 25! And just imagine receiving 7 additional awards at the same time! Well, Michael Jackson, a true legend in his own time, did just that last Monday night at the 11th Annual American Music Awards show held in Los Angeles at the Shrine Auditorium.

It was truly Michael's night from start to finish. Needless to say, he caused quite a flurry when he entered the auditorium with the famous model and star Brooke Shields on his arm. From that moment on, it was one "thriller" after another for the shy

young star.

During the 2-hour show, which was telecast nationwide before a live audience of 6,000, Michael dominated the scene as he went to the podium time after time to receive his 7 trophies and then to bask in the joy of hearing the greatest tributes of them all as his friends, associates and colleagues helped to present him the special Award of Merit for his outstanding contributions to the field of American musical entertainment over a long period of time.

The awards were for "Thriller," named favorite album in both soul and pop-rock categories, which has sold over 20 million copies worldwide and spawned six hit singles; "Billie Jean," singles; "Billie Jean," which was chosen favorite pop-rock single; "Beat It," chosen best

video for both soul and pop-rock; and for Michael's winning the favorite male vocalist awards in both soul and pop-rock categories. "Billie Jean" was also nominated for favorite soul single, but was surprisingly bested by Lionel Richie's "All Night Long."

Lionel, who did a top-notch job as host for the awards show, responded, "Unbelievable," as he received the award for "All Night Long." Thank you very much. You caught me off guard."

Other soul winners during the evening were Gladys Knight and the Pips, who were voted best soul duo or group and Aretha Franklin, who received the award for favorite soul female vocalist.

Shy Michael, resplendent in an old fashioned red and gold sequined comodore's uniform and a black glove on his right hand, said as he picked up one of his first awards of the evening, "I'm very thankful. I don't want to make a long speech. Thank you very much."

However, as the awards kept coming, he became more and more expressive as he took the time to thank everyone he could think of, including the American public that voted for him, the disc jockeys who played his records, producer Quincy Jones, all the girls who were screaming in the balcony, his brothers and sisters and most of all, his other and most of all his mother and father "for teaching me everything I know."

Following one award, he carried with him to the podium tiny Emmanuel Lewis, star of TV's "Webster," who was sitting with Michael and Brooke and whom Michael referred to as "my inspiration."

Michael really came to life, however, when "Dianamite" Ross, his close friend and mentor for many years, appeared on stage to present him with the Award of Merit. "Michael is talented beyond his years," she said. "Michael, all I can say is I love you, too." With that, Michael, after blowing her a kiss,

LADY IS BACK AT CAESARS PALACE JAN. 25-FEB. 7



Diana Ross, the First Lady of Song, is returning to the Circus Maximus Showroom at Caesars Palace on Jan. 25, and she is sure to thrill audiences as this Lady has always thrilled her fans.

Ross has had an uninterrupted flow of million-selling singles since she began her solo career in 1970. "Reach Out and Touch (Somebody's Hand)" has become one of her worldwide trademarks in live performances. The Circus Maximus Showroom sways with excitement every time Ross walks amid the tables and

jumped on stage, did his famous triple spin and gave Diana a big bear. See AWARDS, Page 15

booths to "touch somebody's hand." By the end of the song, her inspirational music has the entire showroom singing and swaying hand-in-hand.

Diana Ross is a vibrant performer who falls in love with every audience and injects a sense of excitement that is long remembered after the show is over. From her early years with the Supremes, Ross has been a star.

Her top-of-the-chart singles include Ashford Simpson's majestic "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," "Touch Me in the Morning" and "Endless Love," to name a few. And then there is her most recent, "Muscles," written and produced by Michael Jackson, also one of music's hottest talents today.

Her latest album, "Silk Electric" is the 51st album for this international recording star and her 23rd album released as a solo artist. In addition to "Muscles," the album contains "So Close," an original song with a fifties sound.

For show reservations phone the Caesars Palace Circus Maximus Showroom. 731-7333.

Little Theater To Present Black Historical Musical

The Las Vegas Little Theater proudly presents the black historical musical *And I Ain't Finished Yet*, written by Eve Merriam and directed by Jack Bell.

This production will open Thursday, Jan. 26 and run through Feb. 18 with evening performances at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There will be Sunday matinees on Jan. 29 and Feb. 12 at 3 p.m.

The theater is located at 2228 Spring Mountain Road (behind the FASHION SHOW MALL).

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