

# JACKSON STREET AND ME . . . By Rudi Jackson



When Lady (Diana Ross) sings the blues and a certain smooth and creative man is in the audience, The Lady will without fail give to this "mellow-with the times" man the accolade he so deserves for the outstanding work he has lent of himself to enhance her rise to being the great show person she has become; also along with so many other talents of the

world of Show'biz. Who is this "treasure-of-a-man," you may be thinking as you read this introduction, CHARLES "CHOLLY" ATKINS — Dancer, Director, Choreographer, Teacher.

From the Forties to the Eighties, Charles "Cholly" Atkins has trod a theatrical path, encompassing all phases of the world of musical entertainment with

unmatched dedication to excellence in the theater. He is truly one of the MOST WELL KEPT SECRETS in this day and time, yet because of the endless time and work "Cholly" has lent and spent in the perfecting of so many greats in the world of music, song, and dance, he is swiftly becoming a "Legend In His Own Time," — walking and dancing through this earth . . . (Thanks Maye! For that time-ly tid-bit of info on "The Cholly Atkins.")

From a "Singing Waiter" in the city of Buffalo, to the most outstanding Choreographer and Instructor at the present time, his only detour was a 2-yr. hitch in the Armed Forces. Starting at the original "Cotton Club" as a single act, it has become documented that he soon ranked with the best of

American dancers. Cholly interjected: "Fred Astaire was, in his mind, truly the greatest of them all!" "Cholly" was the first to combine Tap with Ballet. Next he teamed with Charles "Honi" Coles to form an act heralded as having "everything!" Singing, comedy and, of course, superb dancing! "COLES & ATKINS" were one of the few "class acts" in the business. They delighted audiences from Broadway to the Continent.

Long before he made Las Vegas his home (ten years ago), he came as an artist in 1955 at the Flamingo Hotel with Tony Martin. Moving back a few more years (1951-53) "Cholly" had worked on Broadway in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" at The Ziegfeld Theater, then the show went on the road for 18 months. As the 1950's drew to a close so did the many acts of Tap Dancers. "Cholly" easily made the transition from Tap Dancer to Rock Dancer and began to work for a Detroit (basement rehearsal hall) based Record Co. (MOTOWN RECORDS) teaching young up-coming singers and performers to project visually as well as vocally.

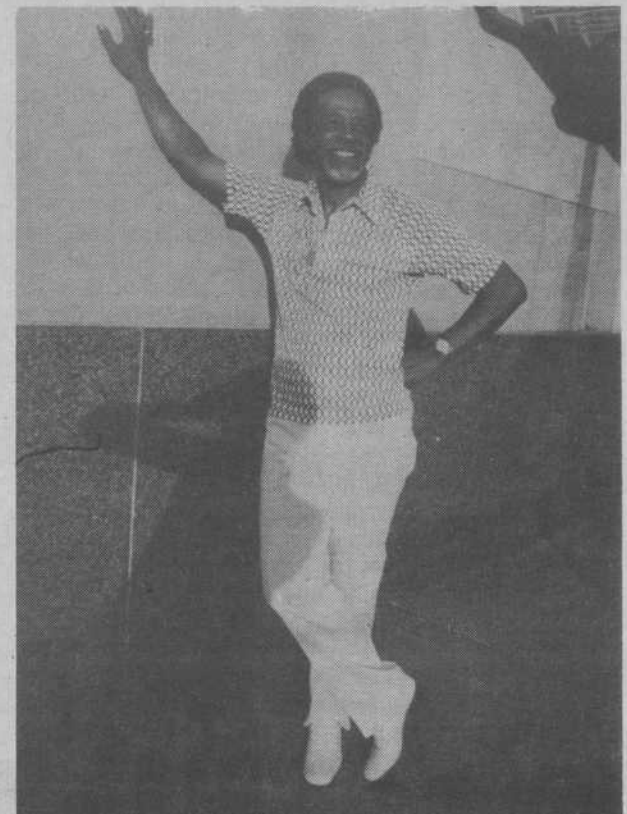
After working six years as Entertainment Director with Motown, he branched out on his own. His roster of clients reads like a Theatrical Who's Who with many of his pupils remaining with him for well over twenty years! Gladys Knight and the Pips have been with him since 1964.

CHARLES "CHOLLY" ATKINS has served as Producer of Television and Night Club Shows and Acts for the following Artists: The Supremes, The Temptations, Sha-Na-Na, The Four Tops, Gladys Knight & The Pips, The O'Jays, The

Manhattans, Smokey Robinson & The Mirales, The Drifters, Hines-Hines & Dad, The Staple Singers, Travares, Rick James, Aretha Franklin, Diana Ross, Dionne Warwick, Mary Wells, Freda Payne, Gregory Hines, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, Ocie Smith, Sammy Davis, Chuck Jackson, Newport Jazz Festival

Association, 19th Annual Seminar on American Culture, American Academy, Carnegie Hall, American Society of Dancing Teachers' Convention . . . Then there are countless others in the world of Show'Biz that Charles Atkins has worked with to enrich their stage acts.

Next week read of the



Charles "Cholly" Atkins

(Dance Segment), Phil Moore and His Flock, June Taylor Dancers, Motown Revue, Ed Sullivan Show, Cab Calloway Revues, and Gladys Knight & The Pips Summer Replacement Show - C.B.S. . . . "Cholly" — The Lectures, Instructions, and Demonstrations: Dance Educators of America, New York State Historical

many places and people within this world where this Star has been billed as: "ONE OF THE GREAT ONES" in his life of entertainment! Hey CHOLLY, Somebody Loves Ya' because You Have Worked With So Many . . . Then & Now!

— Monamodi/85

## Fathers to be honored at Flamingo Library Concert by the Capricorns

Dads will delight in the music of The Capricorns as they salute Father's Day with a selection of memorable melodies that musically tour some highlights of life. The concert will begin at 3 p.m. on (Saturday) June 15 at the Flamingo Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Road.

"I was Born on a Farm in loway" and "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" will bring back the days when dad was a boy. "The Caissons Go Rolling Along," "Anchors Aweigh," and the "Marine Hymn" will salute military

years.

"I Want a Girl Just Like the Girl That Married Dear Old Dad" and "If You were the Only Girl in the World" will revive courting memories and will precede strains of "Get me to the Church on Time," "Stormy Weather," "The Anniversary Song" and "P.S.I Love You."

"Daddy's Little Girl" and "Sonny Boy" will highlight dad's early paternal years while "Sunrise, Sunset" adds a reflective note to his later years.

The second half of the

concert will be devoted to requests from fathers in the audience.

The program is co-sponsored by the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District and a grant from the U.S. Recording Industries with cooperation of Local 369, American Federation of Musicians. Additional funding was provided by Citibank, Chaisson Motors and Gemco Foundations.

The concert is open and free to the public.

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## Akilli's Model Search Launched

Akilli, Ltd., a Chicago-based Photography Agency is conducting a Nationwide

Model Search for its 1986 Black Collegiate Calendar.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Male Black thinking about launching an acting, modeling, or performing career. The calendar will be published and circulated nationally to a market that is as diversified as its content.

Models can send photographs (preferably two no larger than 8x10, nor smaller than 3x5), along with their name, permanent home and school address, telephone number and a current resume or stat sheet to: Akilli, Ltd., P.O. Box 87262, Chicago, Illinois 60680. Deadline is June 30, 1985.

## Lizzie R. Hatcher, Esq.

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