

New headliners sign with Rio, Mirage

By Anthony Curtis

Special for The Republic

Las Vegas' hottest entertainment star, Danny Gans, has announced he will leave the Rio to accept an eight-year deal with the Mirage. Gans will perform in a new theater being created for him. The opening is slated for April.

Meanwhile, the Rio announced that it will fill the void with David Cassidy, the former star of EFX at the MGM Grand. Cassidy will become the Rio's headliner in January, playing in a 700-seat theater in a production show based on his musical and television career. The show probably will evolve into the casino's permanent production in the Rio's 1,500-seat theater, which is under construction.

RAT PACK: In the meantime, Cassidy has been appearing in a cameo role as Bobby Darin in a new show he created that is called *The Rat Pack Is Back*. Playing nightly (except Mondays) in the enclosed lounge of the Desert Inn, *Rat Pack* is a re-creation of one night at the old Copa Room at the Sands. Entertainers portraying Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr. and Joey Bishop, backed by a 12-piece band,

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provide a glimpse of Las Vegas' heyday. Good late-night fun for a good price: \$30.

PARIS POISED: The legal go-aheads have been given for the opening of Paris on Sept. 1. Unlike recent predecessors, the \$760 million, 2,914-room casino-hotel appears ready to debut in its entirety. In sharp contrast to the Venetian, which was roundly criticized by officials from the Italian city of Venice, Paris representatives say they have had "lots of cooperation" from the French government. There reportedly will be a live video feed between Paris-Las Vegas and Paris, France, at the opening.

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