

David Cassidy kicks off new entertainment at the Rio

By Jackie Brett

Special to Las Vegas

The current big entertainment news in town is at the Rio, where David Cassidy signed as the new headliner replacing Danny Gans in the 700-seat Copacabana Showroom starting mid-January 2000. It's a multi-year contract for Cassidy to produce and star in his own sexy, high-energy, rhythmic theatrical production. The Cassidy show is committed to eight shows per week and 44 weeks in 2000.

Cassidy has already had a spectacular show business career that began as a juvenile star in television's *The Partridge Family*. Over his career, his records have sold more than 25 million worldwide and he has had the largest fan club in history.

His success as a serious actor was evidenced by his Emmy-nominated performance in the episode, "A Chance To Live," the highest-rated *Police Story* in its seven-year history.

On Broadway, Cassidy was in the original production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

In 1996, he opened at the MGM in the \$75 million *EFX* show. Now he can be seen on VH1's series *Behind The Music*, which has received the highest ratings on the VH1 network. Most recently, he has written and produced a



Cassidy began his career as a teen heartthrob in the TV show *The Partridge Family*.

new musical, "The Rat Pack Is Back," playing in the Starlight Lounge at the Desert Inn.

It's expected that Gans will soon announce his future plans which will most likely be a deal with the Mirage.

The King's goods up for auction

Significant archival material relating to Elvis Presley's career will be made available to the public through an auction being held on behalf of Elvis Presley Enterprises (EPE). Approximately 2,000 items from Graceland's archives will be featured in the sale, but not a single item will be removed

from displays at Graceland, Elvis' famed home and a major attraction in Memphis.

The primary goal of the auction is to establish a building fund for the creation of Presley Place, a transitional housing development in Memphis. Phase one of the \$1 million plus facility will be a 10-12 unit residential facility which could be opened as early as fall 2000.

The auction will take place on Columbus Day weekend, starting on Oct. 7 or 8 and ending on Oct. 10, at the MGM Grand. Previews will be held Sept. 28 beginning at 10 a.m. and will be orchestrated by Guernsey's.

Bidding will be taking place "live" at the MGM, but bidders worldwide can also participate via the Internet. The entire auction will be presented on Interactive Collector at www.icollector.com. Additionally, the sale will make history as the first entire auction webcast live on the Internet. EarthCam.com will be covering the auction.

The items will include not only actual Elvis-owned garments, automobiles, furniture and other "physical" objects plus career memorabilia, but also many significant documents relevant to his career. Every item will be accompanied by certification indicating that the items are from the Presley estate.

For further information, to order the

catalogue or make arrangements for attending the event, contact Guernsey's at 1-(212) 794-2280. Or visit their Web site at www.guernseys.com.

King of Queens rules at the Riv

The star of CBS' *King Of Queens*, Kevin James, will do two special performances at the Top Of The Riv over Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4-5.

After performing on *The Tonight Show*, James got his big break at the 1996 Montreal Comedy Festival and was chosen as a recurring cast member for the CBS hit comedy *Everybody Loves Raymond*.

Tickets for his shows at the Riv are \$25 plus applicable taxes and fees. For tickets, call 1-(702) 794-9433.

Caesar's hosts chess champs

The World Chess Championship is being held at Caesars Palace through Sunday, Aug. 29. The finals begin on Aug. 22. This is the first time this tournament has been held in the U.S. since 1990.

Among the 100 participants are nine Americans. The world's top chess players are fighting in knockout matches to become the 14th World Chess Champion. The total prize fund is \$3,000,000. The victor receives \$660,000 and will be crowned in closing ceremonies on Aug. 29.

A special 800 number is being maintained to keep chess fans updated. Call 1-888-243-7748. The

games are also being broadcast live on the Internet on the U.S. Chess Federation Web site at www.uschess.org. Admission to watch at the hotel is free to the public.

Orlando parties at the Flamingo

Tony Orlando will be holding a party at the Flamingo Hilton's Sunset Ballroom on Saturday, Aug. 14. The popular entertainer won the hearts of veterans the world over when he recorded "Tie A Yellow Ribbon Round The Old Oak Tree."

Orlando turns every show into an intimate New Year's Eve party and his catchy hit tunes "Candida" and "Knock Three Times" add to the festivities. Tickets for his 8 p.m. show are \$37.50, \$40 and \$42.50 plus tax. For information, call 1-(702) 733-3333.

Motorcycle fest rolls into Vegas

A six-day motorcycle festival is in the works for Oct. 3-8, 2000. The Las Vegas International Bike Week and Expo 2000 will transform the city into a giant theme park for motorcycle enthusiasts and spectators.

Recognizing the international appeal with motorcycles, the event sponsored by Las Vegas Events is expected to attract more than 100,000 visitors from throughout the United States as well as from Europe and Asia.

Hoping to appeal to a wider interest group, this mega-event will be staged

at several Las Vegas locations and incorporate concerts, stunt shows, celebrity challenges and hands-on bike activities.

Tough trucks on display in Henderson

The first "Tough Truck Field Meet" will be held Oct. 9-10 at the Sunset Station in Henderson, Nev. The event is open to the public and will feature leading manufacturers displaying the latest in SUV and truck models as well as concept vehicles and accessories to the public. Ford Motor Company is a sponsor.

The staff of the Best in the Desert Racing Association will present seminars on safety and auto care, and design a course for a non-speed competition showing novices how to safely maneuver a SUV. Many off-road racing celebrities will be signing autographs.

The "Tough Truck Field Meet" will take place one week after Best in the Desert's "Vegas to Reno" off-road race. This 500-mile race is the longest of its kind in the United States.

For information, contact Best in the Desert Racing Association at 1-(702) 457-5775 or check out their Web site at www.bitd.com.

Jackie Brett is a Las Vegas-based writer, with more than 20 years experience covering "The Entertainment Capital of the World."