

DENNY WILLIS

CURRENTLY

**'FOL DE ROLS', CONGRESS THEATRE
EASTBOURNE**

I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF THANKING
GREATREX NEWMAN AND HUGH CHARLES
FOR 5 HAPPY YEARS' ASSOCIATION WITH THE
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WELCOME SUGGESTION TO NEGOTIATE
ANOTHER PERIOD ON CONCLUSION OF MY
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SOME NEW VENUES.

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PHILIP BERNARD Riverside, Rhuddlan, Rhyl

Production Dept.:

OPENING OCTOBER 26th . . .

Cliffs Pavilion, Southend and Tour

"THE BEST OF EVERYTHING", with Ken Platt, Al Koran, Donna Douglas, Mike Preston, Roy Rolland, Ossie Noble, Paul Denver, Bernards Girls and Boys, Aubrey Phillips and Mike Arnold.

OPENING DECEMBER 26th . . .

Essoldo, Gateshead (4 wks.); Opera House, Buxton;
and Grand Theatre, Leek

Philip Bernard's record-breaking "CINDERELLA", with Donna Douglas, Mike Arnold, Joe Gandy, Glyn Kay Butler, Royal's Miniature Circus and full company. Produced by Aubrey Phillips.

OPENING DECEMBER 26th . . .

Hippodrome, Stockton (4 wks.); and Spa Theatre, Bridlington
"JACK AND THE BEANSTALK", with Mike Preston, Lettie Laughton, Paul Denver, Frank Lynn, Ossie Rae, Johnny St. George, George Britain and Eva Walker's Toppers and Teeside Babes. Produced by Aubrey Phillips.

IN NEGOTIATION . . .

"ALI-BABA" and "MOTHER GOOSE".

NOTE: Other subjects at present available. FIRST CLASS ENQUIRIES ONLY.

Agency Dept.:

REPRESENTING BRITAIN'S GREATEST CLUB and
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The Amazing PAUL DENVER (Mind-Reader and Premier Escape Artist); ROY ROLLAND ("Old Mother Kelly"); LETTIE LAUGHTON (Glamorous Songstress); FRANK LYNN (Multi-Instrumentalist); ZAREDA (World's Fastest Clairvoyant); JOHNNY WORTHY (Coloured Vocalist).

Only FIRST CLASS OFFERS considered for above Acts
Clubs solely represented — WATCH THIS PAPER FOR NEW ADDRESS
— WE'RE MOVING !!

Thanks to . . .

Norman Crumie, Stanley Osborne, Keith White, Jean Charles, Clifford Harker, Dennis Critchley, George Cooper Orgn., Margaret Cooper, Bunny Barton, Don Ross, Sonny Gross, Michael Dyan, Derek Lever, Joseph Holroyd, George Nye, B.B.C. Television, Granada T.V. (Manchester), Forrester-George Ltd., Catlins (N. Wales) Ltd., Mrs. Billie Manders, John Marshall, Alderman Thompson, Capt. Cooper, James Hartley, and many more.

for making the past twelve months — OUR GREATEST

If it's Quality then it's PHILIP BERNARD

illous shop steward (James Fairley) and the wildest Scotsman in captivity (Duncan Macrae).

Among the general rioting there is the establishment of an illicit bar, a gigantic slapstick with coloured pastes, a terrific drunk scene, a railway "disaster," and other rollicking knockabout.

Hylda shows that she can act as well as put over her inimitable brand of humour; Glenn Melvyn is again the patient, sorely afflicted man of ill destiny; and Denny Ross is his characteristic gormless self. Duncan Macrae's fiery McNab deserves special mention, but all the players acquit themselves well.

George and Alfred Black present the show which is produced by Harold Boyes.

'WHAT A JOYRIDE'

Play by John Waterhouse. Presented by George and Alfred Black at the Grand, Blackpool. Settings by Anthony Holland. Directed by Harold Boyes. Artists include Danny Ross, Glenn Melvyn, Hylda Haker, Laurie Lupino Lane, Michael Lomas, Humphrey Kent, Jill Thompson, James Fairley, Duncan Macrae.

'HOLIDAY STARTIME'

FRANK IFFIELD is well and truly consolidating his well-earned success in "Holiday Startime" at the ABC theatre where Kathy Kirby is also prominently billed.

It is a long road which Frank Iffield has had to travel before arriving at the top but he was always sure that he would make the grade and he has leaped much on the way which should keep him right up for a long time. Generally his material is vintage stuff—tried and approved by two generations. Such robust travellers as "Loveless Blues," "Don't Blame Me," "My Blue Heaven," and "Waltzing Matilda"—all put over, of course, in the special Iffield manner and punctuated with that infectious yodel of his.



Singer Lynne Perrie, Yorkshire girl with three Club Command Performances to her credit, has turned professional and is currently enjoying her first summer season in Blackpool.

A Merseyside and initially brought to life in TV's "Stars and Garters," Kathy Kirby for all her zealous youth is now a really experienced performer. She too goes for the pepped-up oldies, "Secret Love," "Let Me Go Lover"—but adds a good leavening of modern pops — "No Regrets" and "I Wish You Love." In all her offerings her rich, smooth tones come across tellingly.

Both tops undoubtedly owe much to the backing of Johnny Hawkins and the ABC Orchestra. The whole show is most divertingly compiled by Ted Rogers who also fills a good comedy solo spot. Neville King has a distinctive and successful line in ventriloquism. The well-known TV harmony group, the Raindrops, put in some excellent four-part vocal harmonies; Italy's Modern Jazz Dancers sparkle in free-style interpretive dancing; and another Continental act, the acrobatic Medifreds amply justify their claim to be sensational. The Pamela Davis Dancers enliven and decorate many scenes, and the Dancing Boys show skill and grace. The well-paced production is by Alfred J. Knight.

'HOLIDAY STARTIME'

Presented by Leslie Grade, in association with Johnny Hawkins and the ABC Orchestra. Directed and produced by Albert J. Knight, with choreography by Pamela Davis. Decor by Tod Kingman and costumes by Reginald Douglas. Artists include Frank Iffield, Kathy Kirby, Ted Rogers, Neville King, the Raindrops, the Modern Jazz Singers, the Medifreds and the Pamela Davis Dancers, Johnny Hawkins and Orchestra.



'CHARLIE DRAKE SHOW'

"THE CHARLIE DRAKE SHOW" at the Queen's is in a very real sense a memorial to the late Jimmy Brennan: it was the last show Jimmy fixed up before his death and the securing of a bill-topper had been cause of keen anxiety for him. Within days of his death he signed up Charlie Drake, and Charlie includes his famous balloon epic to keep the promise he made to Mr. Brennan. It has been seen often and in many places—but it still brings the house down. Other notable Drake contributions to the show are the sister act with Albert and Les Ward, a fantastic Spanish dance, and a lark in the park. Charlie is everybody's darling.

Some wonderful tap-dancing is also put over by the Clark Brothers, who sing most effectively and shine in impersonations of American top popsters. Albert and Les Ward deliver their tellingly comic and can be clean and they have a good line in novelty instrumentalism.

The Square Pegs are establishing a good claim to become a top vocal group—they're first-rate—and Dublin-born Hazel Yeomans, who is now filling the spot recently vacated by Marion Davies, has a wide-ranging repertoire of pops, point numbers and ballads.

Speciality dancers Sheila Holt and Tom Gills prove their worth, and Vicky Mitchell, with amusing skill, partners Charlie in lively items, while Tessa Davees, comely but substantial, also cuts a rug with the star.

Trapezists, the Skylons, confirm their international reputation for daring and acrobatic performance; the Eight Charlies embellish many scenes as does Marie de Vere's Ballet Montparnasse.

The easy-flowing production is by Maurice Fournier and the whole show owes much to Jack Rankin, the musical director, and his boys.

When Charlie was injured a fortnight ago, it was thought the show could not continue. But Dave King stepped in, playing to his first British audience for two years. The new-look Dave King made a triumphant take-over on Thursday, Dave is staying on until the show comes off on August 22 and to top the first week of a season of variety opening August 24.

'THE CHARLIE DRAKE SHOW'

Presented by James Brennan and Leslie Grade, in association with Bernard Delfont, at the Queen's, Blackpool, directed by Maurice Fournier, with choreography by Roy Gunson. Artists include Charlie Drake, Clark Brothers, the Square Pegs, Marian Davies, Albert and Les Ward, the Skylons, Sheila Holt and Tom Gills, Marie de Vere's Ballet Montparnasse, Tessa Davees, Jack Francois and Vicky Mitchell, Jack Rankin and Orchestra.

'THE CHARLIE PARSONS SHOW'

BLACKPOOL'S senior "uncle," Charlie Parsons, is once again putting across his show in the North Pier arcade theatre. "Uncles" may come and "uncles" may go, but Charlie seems permanently established.

"The Charlie Parsons Show," presented by Ernest Colclough, is quite an ambitious affair, involving not only Charlie but a most presentable supporting cast including Carl Conniff, Des Owen, Carter and Doray, Julie Davies, Brenda, Joyce Terry, and Lois Sager.

German-born Carl Conniff has already an established Continental reputation as a concert artist and his bell-like voice is heard to good effect in romantic light ballads with a Romyberg-Vienne flavour.

Female illusionists are few and far between but Brenda, with her traditional plus some new magical tricks, can hold her own with some of the male tops in the business.

Expertly performing on a variety of instruments, Harry Carter and Doray have a good spot in the programme, as have Des Owen and Julie Davies, who sing admirably as well as engaging in skilful dancing.

Joyce Terry, singer-instrumentalist, also shares some of the comedy spots with Parsons, who proves herself competent in every undertaking. Organist Lois Sager is a first-class soloist and she supports all the acts and is responsible for the distinctive musical arrangements.

Charlie's children's contests are a much appreciated and substantial part of the programme, and Charlie, of course, is ubiquitous—singing, leading the comedy, patterning, and compering.

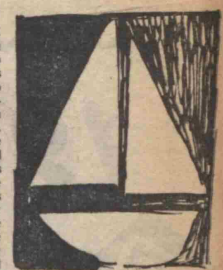
'THE CHARLIE PARSONS SHOW'

Presented by Ernest Colclough at the North Pier, Blackpool. Directed by Charlie Parsons, with musical arrangements by Lois Sager. Artists include Charlie Parsons, Carl Conniff, Julie Davies, Des Owen, Harry Carter and Doray, Brenda, Joyce Terry and Lois Sager.

'THE BIG SHOW OF 1964'

GEORGE AND ALFRED BLACK'S "The Big Show of 1964" at the Opera House is, as usual, the most spectacular of the resort's season shows.

Ken Dodd is, of course, a good half of the show and he makes no less than three major appearances as well as contributing to the ensembles. Nothing as effective as his material and its presentation could be "off the cuff" but it certainly carries the sparkling appearance of spontaneity. Typical with a novel twist, it gets right home to an audience. And he seems inexhaustible—and he proves that



if he hadn't made the top grade as a comedian he could have gone a long way as a singer. One of the new songs he has introduced in this show, "Happiness," has proved so locally successful that it is to be recorded and published.

Joe "Mr. Piano" Henderson is his usual, accomplished self, suave, polished, and altogether at ease, a front that seems to win absolute acceptance for his pop recitals. He entices whole-hearted audience co-operation.

Virtuoso ventriloquist Dennis Spicer admirably fills a top spot, and Rosemary Squires makes a first-rate contribution to the bill. (Incidentally, after the season ends Rosemary is going to America to settle there.)

Harmony trio, the Barry Sisters, are scoring heavily with pops and standards, including old-time



Dick Emery, drawing the crowds at the Blackpool Winter Gardens Pavilion.

favourite, "Danny Boy" which, unaccompanied, they render most pleasingly. A much appreciated acrobatic presentation comes from the Three Robbies, a Continental trio who have great skill and strength. The John Tiller Girls and the Derek Taverner Singers led by Guy Luitman and John Webster (first-rate dancers) make many welcome appearances. Blackpool favourite Larry Macklin conducts the resident orchestra most effectively.

'THE BIG SHOW OF 1964'

Presented by George and Alfred Black at the Opera House, Blackpool. Directed and designed by Alec Shanks, with choreography by Hading and Shanks and orchestration by Ronnie Hamner. Musical Director, Larry Macklin. Artists include Ken Dodd, Rosemary Squires, The Barry Sisters, Dennis Spicer, Joe (Mr. Piano) Henderson, The Three Robertes, The John Tiller Girls and the Derek Taverner Singers.

'THE AL READ SHOW'

UNDOUBTEDLY, the Al Read show, "We've Supped Some Stuff," is proving one of the most successful season shows. In the resort, Al could make a very good case indeed in support of a claim to be the finest regional comedian in the country. He epitomises the special salt tang of the north country character: his sketches need only to be a little bit larger than life to be effective, for one can almost identify the very people from whom he draws them. The know-all, the heckler, the drunken celebrator, the interfering trouble-maker, the nagging wife—all are taken from life—all are one hundred per cent real.

An outstanding success of the current season has been that of the Bachelors. They were, of course, already well established before they took up their stand at the pier, but now they are right on top. The seaside air is inspiring



Bill Finch, whose sparkling baton-twirling stops the show at Delfont's Blackpool North Pier Production.