

## We never see the audience

JEAN AND REX LEAR have played in many of the country's theatres... but they have hardly ever seen the audience.

The reason, of course, is that organist Jean and drummer Rex are usually in the pit.

Jean has always been a performer, but Rex was formerly an agent who found he was staying at home whilst Jean toured with various shows. Then one day, Jean arrived home with a new set of drums. Despite the fact that Rex had never touched a drum stick before, the pair were soon at work.

Based in East Anglia, the duo provide resident backing for many local shows at the Park Hotel, Diss, the Sparrows Nest Theatre, the Cromer Pier Theatre, and the Theatre Royal, Norwich.

This summer, they were seen at Llandudno at the Pier Pavilion with five different shows each week.

Show People contributors: James Hartley, James Green.

## Show People

### Finish your act... and freshen up with a swim!

AMID the palm trees and tropical plants on the sunshine isle of Tenerife in the Canaries, one of the top entertainers playing to thousands of visitors is none other than a fast-gagging comper and singer-guitarist from Liverpool who grew up around the time of the Merseybeat boom with Gerry Marsden of the Pacemakers among his early friends.

His name is Phil Sandison and three years ago he exchanged the British club and theatre circuit for life in the non-stop sunshine of southern Tenerife where tourism is an all-year-round reality.

There on the luxurious Ten Bel

Holiday Park complex he is entertainment manager for the Pontin section (now part of the Coral Leisure Group).

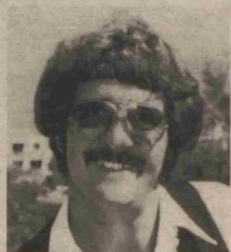
This means playing six nights a week for some 500 to 600 Pontin clients from Britain — plus many

foreigners from six different nations who bring the floating holiday population at Ten Bel up to 3,000 to 4,000 each week.

Phil started his career with popular north west trio Blue Tones and toured the country on the Mecca circuit under the guidance of Mickie Hayes. He eventually went solo under the name of Phil Sands, featured in a Tommy Trinder summer show at Clacton, and also appeared in panto at Swansea with Welsh comedy duo Ronnie and Ryan.

After that he joined the Pontin organisation and began playing one-nighters at the British camps. "I'm enjoying life at Ten Bel," reports Phil, "and would recommend this kind of work to today's rising new talent."

"It is great training because you are making regular appearances in



PHIL SANDISON: from the Mersey to Tenerife.

front of big audiences and that is the best way to find out just what the public wants."

So what are the possibilities for British entertainers in the Canary Islands in general?

"At the moment prospects are limited," Phil says, "and there is no market yet for name artists. However, things are changing and there will be chances soon for the rising and younger performers."

"And how many places in the world are there where the entertainer can finish his act and freshen up with a swim?"

### Zaraeda move

ZARAEDA and his manager-presenter singer Johnny St George have just completed another successful season at Wallis' Holiday Camp, Filey, and are negotiating to return next year.

Meanwhile — currently at Wakefield Theatre Club with the Drifters — they are preparing for a lengthy tour of Mecca venues in London and the Home Counties which gives them almost a full book till well into the New Year. They have sold their Yorkshire mansion at Ferrybridge and their new address is "Lynwood," Knottingley, W. Yorks.

### The King and Marty



SINGER Marty Rhone (above), currently receiving rave reviews for his part in "The King and I" at the London Palladium, arrived in this country only seven months ago after 14 years of almost unbroken success in virtually every branch of show business in Australia.

"But I want to be known and respected for what I do now — not live on my past success at home," says Marty.

In "The King and I", Marty sings two of the most popular songs of the show, "We Kiss in the Shadow" and "I Have Dreamed". He has also gained valuable experience since arriving in the UK, playing the British cabaret circuit.

During his time in Australia, Marty appeared in "Godspell" (620 performances), obtained leading roles in two major TV series, three roles in a live theatre production of "La Mandragola" (for which he wrote the music), and 11 hit single records, all of which made the Top 20 in the Australian charts. He has also appeared in almost every major TV variety show Down Under.

The London Concert Party Association began their new season on September 19 with Betty Bray as their resident pianist. Tessa Newman was in the chair, ably assisted by John Abrey as comper with artists Barbara Newman, Isabel Barrie, Billy Best and Rosemary Banks entertaining. Next meeting will be on October 17.

The PARAMOUNT TILLER GIRLS step it out in style on stage at the Cinema Rex, Paris in 1934.

This is a vintage photo sent in by reader Vera Manning of Cornwall who was a member of the original troupe (pictured above third from the right), which became well-known in Germany and Switzerland as well as Paris.

Vera writes regarding our recent Show People story on 87-year-old great grandmother Ethel Forster being possibly the oldest ex-Tiller Girl still around today. She says that her friend and former dancing colleague, Gertrude Walley, who now lives in Auckland, New Zealand, is 89 years old.

Vera herself has enjoyed a distinguished dancing career, working with several famous names, and even appearing in the Jack Buchanan film "Man From Mayfair," shot at Elstree.



Great things are happening at last for Glasgow-born but London-based singer-guitarist PAUL GOODMAN.

He has just signed a management deal with John Gaydon and an agency deal with Bron... meaning that club and concert audiences will soon be seeing a lot of this talented young performer, who has recently been wowing customers at London's Comedy Store.

Paul writes all his own material — humorous, ironic songs largely about his experiences as a new arrival in London — which he plays on stage with his pianist partner Ian Russell.

His act can be caught next at Tiffanys, Newcastle, on October 10-13.



Multilingual mindreader HUGH LENNON (pictured above gazing into the crystal ball for a female member of the audience) has had one major goal in mind since he started as a professional in showbiz over five years ago... an engagement in Las Vegas.

And this is exactly what he is doing at the end of November when he flies to the famous neon-lit 'Strip' to appear at the Sahara Hotel.

During the first four years as a professional, Hugh, who originally comes from Mauritius, has visited over 35 countries, including Russia and China, while entertaining on luxury liners.

"I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it," he says, "but I decided to give up cruising last year having been in a bad storm during a world cruise on an Italian liner."

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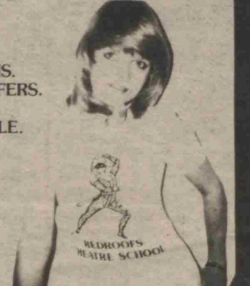
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