



Magicienne JANET CLARE

## Show People

# The magicienne making out in a man's world

THE WORLD of magic is both a male stronghold and something of a closed shop. Breaking into it from the outside can be quite a battle. But Janet Clare of Tunbridge Wells, never lost heart. From the start she was determined to make a success of it.

At 14 she joined the London Society of Magicians, the only active female member and so in a sense a novelty.

Learning new tricks and mixing with other experienced magicians gave her the confidence she needed to face a live audience. She went to the 'top people' for lessons, serving her 'apprenticeship' with Ken Brooke, who sold magic from his Wardour Street studio until ill health forced him to retire five years ago.

Cabaret is her forte... "You can build up an atmosphere and project yourself to the crowd", she says. "You are one of them and amongst them". Stage work, she finds, is less spontaneous, more studied.

Janet specialises in a stand-up patter

act — "I always knew I couldn't do a silent act and prance around like a dancer".

She tailors the patter to fit the trick — and her own personality, practising in front of a mirror for hours at a stretch.

This has developed from the ingenious simplicity of the 14-year-old novice to a mixture of running gags and cryptic one-liners, the stock-in-trade of the seasoned performer.

Although the Magic Circle still maintains its ban on women members, Janet has been invited to appear at one of their club nights in the spring. Someone spotted her at the International Brotherhood of Magicians' convention in Brighton last September (1980) and booked her there and them.

She entered for the British Ring Shield and was specially commended by the judges.

Her success, she feels, was due to her 'stand-up patter' approach — a basic difference in style from other female magicians whose acts were built around a decorative glamorous appearance and elaborate effects.

Show people contributors: Veronica Harvey; Roger Clive Kemp; Jim Daley; Derek Wayland.

## Zaraeda zooms East

EAST COAST favourite Zaraeda will be returning to Fife next season but the venue, which was to have been the Sun Lounge Theatre, has been changed to the resort's new Brig Theatre.

He will share the peak season with the Ronnie Hilton Show to be staged the first half of the week, the Zaraeda company performing Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Also for the eighth consecutive season, Zaraeda will be back headlining at the Variety Theatre, Cayton Bay, for 16 weeks, July to September.

## SHOWCALL

### WHO'S WHERE



CHEEKY DOG &amp; DAVID TOMKINS: Queensway Civic Centre, Dunstable

Week: 5th January-11th January

WARD ALLEN	Pantomime, Richmond
MICHAEL ALLPORT & JENNIFER	Touring Continent
KENNY CANTOR	3 Arts Theatre, Capetown, SA
CHRIS CHAPMAN	Caribbean cruising, Island Princess
CHERYL CHARLES DUO	One nighters, Leeds & Bradford
CHEEKY DOG & DAVID TOMKINS	Queensway Civic Centre, Dunstable (10)
JESS CONRAD	Vaudeville, London
JILL DANIELS	Bolton on Dearn Brit. Legion, Yorks (11)
DELPHINE Y DOMINGO	Lancs. Tour
DEREK & CHRISTIE	Chywick Hall, Camberley (8)
EMERSON & JAYNE	New Palace, Plymouth
BOB GUTHRIE	St. George's Theatre, N7 (10,11)
JAZZMEN	Bombay, India
JANICE HOYTE	One nighters, London
JACK JANSEN	White Rock, Hastings (to 10)
EN JOY	Filming
EN & WAYNE	Merseyside
STEVEN KING	Gaiety, Ayr
NORMAN LON	Panto, Peckham Civic Centre
LOVELIGHT	One nighters, Wigan
JOHNNY MAI	Whitehall Theatre, SW1
MARIE LOUISE	Civic Theatre, Middleton
CHUBBY OATES	Leamington, Stockport
JULIE OWNE	Nell Gwynne, Hereford
PATTON BROTHERS	Touring
TERRY PEARSON	Caribbean Cruising, Danae
SANDOWS	Radio Thamesmead (6)
GORDON SCOTT	Grand Theatre, Swansea
GERTRUDE SHILLING	Empire, Sunderland
KENNY SMILES	Gissons Inn, Exeter (9,10)
STROMBOLI & SILVIA	Panto, Peckham Civic Centre
SUGAR & SPICE	
VIC TEMPLAR	

This column is designed as a service only for artists listed in SHOWCALL. SHOWCALL artists wishing to be included should send their dates to arrive not later than Friday for publication on the following Thursday. Dates can be sent week by week or in a list to cover a longer period whichever possible. In the case of "one nighters", only one date per week can be included.

The publishers reserve the right to reject any entry or to suspend the column at their discretion.

WRITE SHOWCALL (Who's Where), 47 Bernondsey Street, London, SE1. (We regret that telephone communications cannot be accepted.)

## SNAPSHOT

### Ruby Murray — a national favourite almost overnight

IT IS 25 years since Irish colleen Ruby Murray achieved her biggest success with "Softly, Softly", but she is still a popular artist all over the world with her demure appearance and appealing voice.

Altogether she had ten hit songs, seven in one year (1935), with five in the charts at the same time, a unique achievement in the history of the Hit Parade.

Her best-sellers, with chart placings in brackets, were: "Heart-beat" (3), "Softly, Softly" (1), "Happy Days And Lonely Nights" (6), "If Anyone Finds This, I Love You" (4), "Let Me Go Lover" (5), "Evermore" (3) and "I'll Come When You Call" (6).

Ruby was born in Belfast, where she made her stage debut in amateur shows at 11. At 14 she joined a revue starring Scottish comedian Tommy Morgan which went all over Ireland.

She came to London with a show called "Yankie Doodle Blarney", and while appearing at the old Metropolitan Theatre, in Edgware Road, was seen again by TV producer Richard Afton, who brought her over from Belfast when she was a schoolgirl to appear in a programme with Irish comic Jimmy O'Dea, after noticing her in a concert in Dundalk, Eire.

Impressed with her progress since then he featured her in the highly-rated television show "Quite Contrary" and she was spotted by band leader Ray Martin, who worked for EMI.

Ray recommended her to record producer Norrie Paramor, who signed her for Columbia.

Almost overnight she became a national favourite. Small, shy and nervous, she was bewildered by her sudden fame. Her marriage to Bernard Burgess, of the singing group, the Four Boys, was widely publicised. They had two children, Julie, who is now 20 and a secretary, and Timothy, who is 15 and still at school. Between their births Ruby went on singing and toured Britain, Ireland, South and North Africa,



● When DOC HOLLIDAY and CALAMITY JANE wed, the ceremony went great guns. For it took place during the recent Pontin's country festival, and the happy couple were welcomed by a line-up of cowboys and Indians. A swish champagne and wedding cake reception was laid on by the management. The happy couple are pictured (centre) with entertainments manager at Brean Sands, Alan Phillips and some of his staff and guests.

### The stout and the slim of the North

LEEDS-BASED comedy duo Laura and Terry Devon have become one of the most sought after acts of their kind on the northern club circuits.

Over the past two years they have won over a number of club awards and they are guaranteed crowd-pullers. Laura, who weighs in at 19 stone, uses her physical attributes plus her excellent vocal talents to the delight of the audiences, whilst her slim partner Terry can be somewhat likened to the late but great Stan Laurel.

Besides acting as the stooge, he also gives an outstanding performance as a guitarist and impressionist.



● Outrageously attired entertainer Paul Peters is bringing his kitsch drag act to a range of audiences in the next few months.

He is now playing to family audiences with his portrayal of Addie Egg in "Jack And The Beans-talk" at the Arts Theatre, Cambridge, where he works alongside Diana Solomon and Frankie Holmes.

When the panto season finishes, Paul will be amusing Danish cabaret audiences. He has been booked for a month's run at Copenhagen's Club Madame Arthur.

And on his return to the UK in March he steps back six decades with a tour of a new show "The Roaring Twenties", which he has devised and directed.

A number of other cabaret appearances have been slotted in for the performer who scored such a hit recently in the regular variety shows at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East.

### The chance meeting that helped Ricky Lomas turn pro

IT WAS a meeting, purely by chance, with fellow Welshman Harry Secombe 14 years ago in Cyprus that helped comedian Ricky Lomas decide to turn professional.

Unknown to Ricky at the time, Harry happened to be sitting in the audience watching him entertain troops, and was most impressed with what he saw.

Until that meeting, Ricky, who was born in Flint, North Wales, had only been working as a semi-professional entertainer. Since then, he has had four successful summer seasons in Blackpool, and an appearance on "New Faces".

Ricky knows the entertainment business well as during his showbusiness career he worked for a time as entertainments manager for Thomsons Holidays in Tunisia.

Now based in Plymouth Ricky is looking forward to the New Year when he undertakes a nationwide tour with the Rockin' Berries.

### The puppet-lovers based in West Country theatre

GWEN AND Peter Edwards are great favourites with puppet lovers all over the West Country, and an increasing number of holidaymakers from all over Europe, Japan and America are including a visit to their Little Puppet Theatre in St. Agnes, near Newquay, as part of their holiday in Britain.

Not only do they produce, direct and manipulate the puppets themselves but they also write most of their own shows. They are always willing to consider appearances by other puppeteers or puppet companies, and small intimate revues or shows.

The theatre is a converted cinema and it has an atmosphere conducive to one-man shows or small plays.

Because of their increasing popularity with overseas visitors, Gwen and Peter are constantly being offered foreign engagements. At present, pressure of work prevents them from taking up some very attractive offers, but they plan to tour abroad when the time-factor can be sorted out.

### DAVE NORTON OF DANOR ENTERTAINMENTS

Presents Showtime To-Night this evening 2 January 1981 at:

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY CLUB ROSSLYN ROAD, WATFORD TOWN CENTRE (next to the Multi-Storey Car Park)

With:

SUZANNE KERN exciting young vocalist from the Midlands.

STEVE SHORT very funny comedy magician.

ROBERT MCEWAN dynamic male vocalist.

and featuring

TEDDI MUNRO from her success on BBC TV's 'Rising Stars'.

Backing by the excellent versatility of ZEBEDEE.

The above are available individually or as a package show through this office. Any interested parties very welcome.

Contact: DANOR ENTERTAINMENTS 20 Cumberlow Place, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. Telephone: 0442 47487.

Cyprus, Canada and America.

For the past few years she has been doing summer seasons at seaside resorts and cabaret in the winter. She has just finished a season at the Arcadia Theatre in Skegness and is doing one-nighters in Bournemouth over the Christmas period and Buckinghamshire at the end of January.

Ruby is now married to Ray Lamar, who deals with her personal management, after several years as a touring manager with impresario Bernard Delfont. They live in a flat overlooking the harbour at Torquay.

CHRIS HAYES