

# **Diva Doings**

## ***A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF PAM MUNTER***

***No.2***

***April 2000***

### ***“STAR” SERIES INCLUDES PAM***

Dorothy Parker dropped some of her finest bonmots there. Robert Benchley downed bottles of scotch while verbally jousting with George S. Kaufman. Literary giants shared their creative synergy on a daily basis. And that’s just in the Rose Room.

A few steps away in the Oak Room lie the ghosts of some of the finest entertainers in the history of show business - from the legends of yore to those still emblazoning their names on our collective psyches. In recent years, it has been Rosemary Clooney, Margaret Whiting, Harry Connick Jr., Eartha Kitt and Susannah McCorkle

And now, making her Algonquin debut in the prestigious “Cavalcade of Stars” series, Pam Munter!

Pam has been invited to do her new show, “It’s Magic: Celebrating Doris Day” in the Oak Room, on October 20. The show is part of the series that runs concurrently with the Cabaret

Convention, drawing both performers and audiences from all over the world.

Show time is 11 pm. See listing in this issue for info on location and reservations.

Pam’s reaction: “Please come and help me celebrate this momentous occasion in my life. As Sinatra sang, ‘if I can make it there .....



## ***DORIS OPENS IN PORTLAND***

"Frank Sinatra" visited there nearly two years ago. This year along came "Doris Day" for the Portland, Oregon premiere of Pam's new show at the venerable Old Church.

"It's Magic: Celebrating Doris Day" ran for three nights in February, and featured the music of pianist Gordon Lee (who had just finished gigging with Bobby Rydell), bassist Dan Davis and legendary drummer Donny Osborne (longtime sideman and friend of Mel Torme).

A surprise guest on closing night was Linda L'Heureux, the President of the USA Doris Day Fan Club. Pam has written, several articles for the club's newsletter, and Linda had been very helpful in locating sheet music for some of the obscure songs sung in the show. Linda liked the show so well, she now includes a schedule for future performances on the Doris Day website, along with a copy of this very newsletter. Thanks, Linda! For Doris Day fans everywhere, check out the "official Doris Day USA Fan Club" website at

<<http://homepages.go.com/~lheureux-disney>>

## ***AND COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU...***

April 8,15, 22 -'It's Magic: Celebrating Doris Day" at Danny's Skylight Room in NYC, 9 pm - performances with the George Gee Big Band at Swing 46 (dates TBA)

June 11 - invited performance at the West Coast Cabaret Convention in San Francisco

June 12 -special performance of 'It's Magic" at Piaf's in San Francisco

July - 'It's Magic" at the Cinegrill (dates TBA)

September - two weeks at Swing 46 with the George Gee Big Band (dates TBA)

October 20 - 'It's Magic" as part of the "Cavalcade of Stars" series at the Oak Room at the Algonquin Hotel, 11 pm

WEBSITE:

<<http://www.teleport.com/pmunter>>

## ***ON A PERSONAL NOTE....***

Thanks for your generous reception of our first issue of "Diva Doings." Many of you have emailed me, or talked with me after shows, to say how much you like our efforts.

We're putting out another issue because, as you can see, so much has happened in the past few months. Once again it seems we will be traveling to spread the "gospel" of cabaret throughout the country - and to be able to see all of you again. The best part of a performance for me is being able to say "hi" to you afterwards.

I am very grateful to have been able to find so many quality people with whom to work - from the on-the-line musicians to the behind the-scenes people. As we continue to publish this newsletter for you, we'll let you know a little about these exceptional and creative people. We start here with Ed Vodicka, whose musical contribution to my life is secondary to the joys of his irreverent sense of humor and unfailing

support of my delusions of grandeur, Hope you enjoy his article here. -PAM

## ***ED VODICKA: SETTING THE MUSICAL TONE***

Pianist, arranger and band leader Ed Vodicka started playing the accordion in kindergarten. At 11, his father gave Ed's sister an organ for Christmas, quickly appropriated by the young tyro. The Conn Organ Corporation hired him at 15 for concerts throughout the country, resulting in Ed's first album.

But it was in college that he discovered piano and the pleasure of working with other musicians, began arranging and leading local orchestras and started his own production company. He built a successful business staging elaborate industrial events for large corporations, and even founded his own record label.

Over the next few years, Ed began producing shows as well, working with Jack Jones, Bill Cosby, Tony Bennett and Gladys Knight both as a leader and behind the scenes in production. He enjoyed the trips to New York and Los Angeles in particular, because of the quality of musicians there. It was while touring as Perry Como's conductor in the late 1980s that Ed met his future wife, Donna, who was a backup singer for the mellow baritone.

Last year, he made the big move from Chicago to LA. He's a frequent studio musician on recording dates, works in clubs with various size groups, and continues to conduct and orchestrate both music dates and entertainment projects. Ed met Pam when they worked together at the Cinegrill last year with "The Lady Is A Tramp: My Life As Frank Sinatra." Ed's trio included noted jazz musicians Earl Palmer (recently inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame) and former Sinatra bass player Ernie McDaniel.

Ed has provided the orchestrations for Pam's Doris Day Show, revised the arrangements for the Sinatra show and is hard at work on her big band arrangements. That is, when he's not producing and arranging for Anita O'Day.

## *Where To Go*

### **Danny's Skylight Room**

346 West 46th Street

New York City, NY

Res: (212) 265-8133

### **Swing 46**

349 West 46<sup>th</sup> Street

New York City, NY

Res: (212) 262-9554

### **Piaf's**

1686 Market Street

San Francisco, CA

res: (415) 864-3700

### **The Oak Room at**

### **The Algonquin**

59 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street

New York City, NY

Res: (212) 840-6800

**The Mabel Mercer Foundation**

160 East 48th Street, Suite 14U

New York City, NY

(212) 908-3026

(for more convention info)

**Alan Eichler**

6064 Selma Avenue

Hollywood, CA 90028

(323) 871-1454

(323) 871-0457 (fax)

**The Cinegrill**

7000 Hollywood Blvd.

Hollywood, CA

Res: (213) 466-7000

***Television and Film***

**Jeffery Hasseler**

Ryan Artists, Inc

NW 13th Street, Suite 215

Portland, OR 97209

(503) 274-1005

(503) 274-0907 (fax)

***For More Information***

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