



THE MIDDNIGHT SNOOP

by Donald McLean

TERRY TAYLOR AND COMPANY

A new pantomime revue opened last week at JACKIE D'S on Mason Street, entitled "Terry Taylor and Co." The Show has obviously had much rehearsal and boasts a cast of six, three drag, three boy dancers. Headlining the cast is Terry Taylor, an established performer in San Francisco best known for his Totie Fields and charming easy-going manner onstage. You cannot help but like Mr. Taylor, even when given weak material. Unfortunately, as the star of the show, he comes off the weakest of the three ladies, mainly because he lacks direction and has



Terry Taylor... Charming but weak.

the least to do production-wise of anybody in the show. "I Gotcha" seems to have been choreographed without him, and then he was told to just "do his thing" and they'd work around him, which is a great disservice to all involved. The number lacks a cohesiveness that would sell it as a strong opening. Of his solos, the new Dorothy Loudon is good fun and Totie is always delivered with punch. But the nicest thing I see in Terry Taylor is his relaxed emceeing, done live of course, and this is when the true Taylor personality comes to the fore.

Vicki Marlane continues to bring his polished professionalism to every number, and his "Heat Wave" is the best single blockbuster of the evening. His comedic abilities, which are considerable,

saves the "Triplets" number, and his "horny old lady" remains his alone, no matter how many others try to do it. But the one quality that always makes Mr. Marlane stand out to me is his willingness to try anything onstage asked of him. Not a trained dancer, by sheer dint of energy and rehearsal, he socks "I Want to Be Happy" across and makes it work (do you realize how long that tap solo goes on?!). Mr. Marlane could serve as an example to young performers of the right attitude to build a career on.

A pleasant surprise of the evening is the return to the boards of Victoria Starr. Known previously mainly for his work in the art of the striptease, La Starr not only keeps all his clothes on (well, almost), but reveals new facets as a dancer and comedienne. "Hanky Panky," a dreadful throwaway, is amusing only for Vicki's sight gag contribution. "Black Market" just doesn't work at all, but "Let Me Entertain You" is high-spirited enough to compensate. And the classical Spanish dance double with Skip Gillmon is easily the most impressive number seen in a pantomime show in ages. For that number alone, we should give shouts of "Hallelujah!"

To see three boy dancers backing a mime show is enough to start a revolution right off the bat. Billed as the Skip Gillmon Dancers, the boys work thruout the show in sketches as well as productions. Mr. Gillmon, obviously a trained ballroom dancer, excels in choreographing stage pictures, though some of his choreography seems repetitive and lacks flow (step, hold 4,

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