

THE MORNING HERALD—THE EVENING STANDARD

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**Earl Wilson**

**On The Town**

**NEW YORK** — "Her voice is even better than it was when she was at her best," they're saying.

Alice Faye, at 58, is making one of the great comebacks of Show Business in "Good News." She's singing "Together," "The Best Things in Life," "You're the Cream in My Coffee," with John Payne, and other oldies. She got a standing ovation when she merely came on stage at the preview at the Hudson Colonial, and others during and after the show. "How did she improve her voice by not using it all those years?" people are asking.

Her husband, Phil Harris, who told her she was silly to return to Show Business when she didn't need the money, didn't attend the Boston preview. However, he did phone from California — to wish her luck.

Molly Bercs, widow of Charlie Bercs of 21 Brands and the 21 Club, was superintending the money-raising for the Jack Kreindler Heart Fund last night and pointed to a huge cage with raffie tickets. "There's \$100,000 in there," she said. "Which is about 1/3 of how you look tonight!" exclaimed an admirer.

Ask EW Anything: Is it true as we've read that Lisa Kirk dubbed the songs in "Mame" for Lucille Ball? S. Sutton, Camden, N.J. ... Glad you asked, 'cause Lisa says she heard the story but it isn't true; that Lisa's talented and capable of singing her own songs. Lisa did dub for some of the songs for "Caddy" and "got a lot of money for it" but is busy with her own projects now and not looking for dubbing deals.

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If we were allowed to nominate anybody for an Oscar award, we'd suggest playwright Neil Simon's bride, Marsha Mason, who plays the pregnant pool hustler in the new film "Cherella Liberty." She got a lot of applause at a Show Biz party at Gallagher's after the preview. This is her year; she's also in Doc's Broadway show, "The Good Doctor."

She's about the only new face in the Oscar speculation. Dustin Hoffman is mentioned for "Papillon" (while his "Alfredo Alfredo" made it Italy is also opening at the same time he's starting to film "Lenny" here). Daryl's one of the most popular actors, but personal popularity has nothing much to do with winning an Oscar as you can realize if you'll think back over the last couple of years. (Hi, Martin; hi, George.)

Some of the other guessing for Oscars brings up Jack Nicholson, James Caan, Al Pacino, Paul Newman, Steve McQueen, Robert Redford and Robert DeNiro who played the cop in "Electra Glide in Blue."

**THE MIDNIGHT EARL** ... Richard Burton, ex-husband of Veronica that Liz Taylor is still recuperating and feeling O.K. ... Minority Leader Stanley Steingalt is Harry Rosenfield's nominee for Governor ("on his record of service to the state" and Rosenfield will be \$10,000 he can make it ... Susan Simpson, one-time wife of ex-Mayor Wm. O'Dwyer, built herself a villa in Acapulco which she rents for \$180 a day ... A well-known writer celebrated his return to work by spending the night in jail for drunken driving ... The big party for the Wm. Rogers Hospital at the Hilton ("Papillon") was engineered by Mrs. Norman Young ... Ann-Margret roars on stage on a motorcycle in her new set of the Vegas Tropicana, followed by 12 cars also on motorcycles. I sure gets noisy.

Dave Ellington out of the hospital, promptly did his two Rainbow Grill shows plus a benefit ... The success of "Zor" at the Blue Angel may result in another show with female impersonators — "La Grande Eugene" — being brought from Paris. (Opening at the shuttered Copas?) ... Nancy Walker was so upset by her marital bustup that she bowed out of the "Married Is Better" TV; Kay Medford subbed ... A fan gave O. J. Simpson something more valuable than trophies — a pass to his midtown parking lots.

At Trader Vic's: Liza Minnelli and Ben Vereen ... Dickson of "Fiddler" are still getting dividers; Hal Prince just sent out checks bring the total to \$9 million ... Rudy Rich's dr. Cathy is partial to drummers — she was at Le Mans with drummer Carl Palmer (of the Emerson-Lake-Palmer group) ... Mayor Lindsay, at his big farewell bash at Libosita Center, sang and booted with Florence Henderson, Rita Moreno and Marcia Rudd. Hal Prince called it "the last Lindsay gala" for the time being. (A question asked at the party: "If Lindsay has the second toughest job in America, who has the first?" Answer: "Richard Nixon's secretary.")

When Vivian Blaine was marrying clothesier Stuart Clark, Judge Richard Brown asked if there was any reason, etc., and Vivian replied, "Almost, because I couldn't find my divorce papers." It was the judge's first marriage ceremony and the bride's third.

**TODAY'S BEST LAUGHS:** Joan Rivers says she and her husband Edgar argued over the all right card game, the cigar smoke, the loud language: "I finally gave in. I won't have the girls over for poker any more."

**REMEMBERED QUOTE:** "Now that it's behind you, what did you do yesterday that you're proud of today?"

**EARL'S PEARLS:** Sometimes a man goes to Las Vegas out of curiosity and the other comes home out of funds.

"Once again this TV season," notes E. G. Rosenblatt, "I've been seeing a lot of shows about crime and doctors. Half the actors are holding up badges and the other half are holding up X-rays." "That's earl, brother."

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