



"A fine romance my friend, this is..." croons debonair Fred Astaire to a reluctant Ginger Rogers in an Edmonton-like setting. The film is SWINGTIME, a toe-tapping musical from the 30's, to be shown Jan. 20 by Edmonton Film Society at Tory Lecture Theatre, U of A campus at 8 p.m. Memberships available at the door.

Preview: Swingtime

Swingtime (Edmonton Film Society, Jan. 20, Tory Lecture Theatre, 8 p.m.)

Swing Time is a movie about a myth, the myth of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers and the imaginary world of romance they live in. It is a world of night time frolics, but it is also a middle-class, work-a-day American world. It is top hats and empty pockets; Fred as a Depression dandy hopping a freight car, Ginger being sung to with soap in her hair.

Swing Time is a film full of nostalgia for the high life of the Twenties, for what Stanley Walker called "the night-club era". Manhattan is glamorized as a town where fortunes are openly made and lost each night at the roulette tables, a slight breach of history.

Logical plot developments count for little in the world of Astaire and Rogers. The foundation of that world was, of course, the songs and what the team did with them. And for *Swing Time* Fred and Ginger were the beneficiaries of a superior collection provided by Jerome Kern and Dorothy Fields. The songs are more tightly interwoven with the script - and with each

other - than in any of the other Astaire-Rogers films. The ballads fit together not only melodically, like "A Fine Romance" and "The Way You Look Tonight" which can be sung to counterpoint and are sung that way in the finale, but in the lyrics. Dramatically, too, the songs establish the scheme of the film, and from the very first number.

A cycle in the Astaire-Rogers series closes with *Swing Time*. Up to this point, the films fashioned for them had cannibalized each

other for ideas. With their next film, they began appropriating ideas from other contemporary Hollywood films. A certain family tone is lost, and the team almost seems to be seeking its own dissolution. *Swing Time* is an apotheosis. No more changes were left to be rung on the mythical theme of Fred and Ginger. Astaire and Rogers had set trends. Now, on the momentum of their style, they would follow them to the end of the decade.

R. Thomas

Brent Carver appears at Citadel

Brent Carver, who is currently one of the two stars in the Citadel's production of *The Au-Pair Man*, will be presenting a special program of lunchtime concert-style music and lyrics on Wednesday, January 22nd at 12:10 (noon) at the Citadel.

The list of musical credits Brent Carver has to his name is one that is both long, and nationally recognized. He has just finished touring with the hit Canadian musical, "Jubalay", which opened at the Manitoba Theatre Centre, and then toured right across Canada. The musical, specially written with Brent and his three colleagues in mind, received rave reviews wherever it played. Brent himself was described by one critic as "one of the most promising young musical performers on the Canadian scene today."

The tour was Brent's second, his first having been with the record-breaking Vancouver production of "Jacques Brel".

Earlier this summer, Brent was a featured artist in the CBC TV series, "Inside Canada", and also appeared recently in CTV's "Oom Pa Pa". Now Brent will bring more of his talents to the

Citadel stage, in music as well as drama. Accompanying himself on guitar, he will present songs, stories and anecdotes from the shows he has been in, songs which he has composed himself, and songs which he confesses, he just loves to sing.

Admission is \$1.00 - Coffee and sandwiches 75 cents. The presentation is sponsored by the Citadel Houselighters.

rock notes

John Lennon

John Lennon has won the first battle of the new year in his fight to stay in the United States. A federal judge, Richard Owen, has granted Lennon's request that he be allowed personally to cross-examine government witnesses in his deportation case.

The list of witnesses Lennon now has the right to question includes former attorneys general John Mitchell and Richard Kleindienst, both of whom have been convicted of Watergate felonies.

Lennon hopes to prove that a conspiracy was entered into by the government to have immigration officials unconstitutionally pre-judge his case. The government has been trying to evict the former Beatle over a late '60's marijuana bust.

Meanwhile, a Republican Congressman, Norman Lent of Long Island, New York has petitioned President Ford to pardon Lennon in a letter co-signed by 24 other members of Congress. Congressman Lent notes that both Lennon and George Harrison were charged with possession of marijuana by the British government in the late '60's, and in both cases the charges were dropped.

Nowadays, Harrison is welcomed to the White House for lunch and a picture session with the President, while Lennon is still being threatened with deportation.

Former Door

Ray Manzarek, former Doors keyboardist, will release his second solo album any day now, to be titled "The Whole

Thing Started With Rock & Roll Now It's Out Of Control." It contains eight tunes, all penned by Manzarek and is purposefully more rocking and less philosophical than his debut L.P. which appeared earlier this year called "The Golden Scarab."

Manzarek plays nine instruments on the album and is joined by Joe Walsh, Mike Fennelly and Mark Pines on guitars. George Segal makes a guest contribution on banjo, while Flo and Eddie provide some backing vocals. Poetess Patti Smith reads "I Wake Up Screaming", a poem of late Doors' vocalist Jim Morrison.

Mary Travers

Mary Travers, formerly of Peter, Paul & Mary, has lined up quite a few friends for her new weekly syndicated radio program "Mary Travers and Friend," which premieres January 18 on some 80 radio stations. Mary's debut friend will be the New Riders of the Purple Sage. In the following weeks, she'll visit with Richie Havens, Harry Chapin, Dory Previn, Bob Dylan, Renaissance, Barry Manilow, Golden Earring, Billy Joel, and Jefferson Starship.

Rolling Stones

While no one involved with the Rolling Stones is willing to speculate on who will become the next member of the world's best-known rock 'n roll band, the music press is doing a lot of speculating as to who will be Mick Taylor's replacement.

So far, the speculation centers on a handful of names: Ron Wood of the Faces with

whom Keith Richard has worked quite a bit lately; Mick Ronson, British glam-rocker who recently joined Mott the Hoople; Peter Frampton of Peter Frampton's Camel fame, and John Platania, formerly a sideman for Van Morrison.

While these musicians are being talked about as leading candidates for the Rolling Stones job, rock music is a lot like politics. Mick Jagger and company might well set their sites on a total unknown, rather than a popular favorite. Who knows? Maybe even George Harrison will get the offer. After all, he is the world's best-known "Dark Horse" these days.

"Janis"

The makers of the film documentary "Janis" are in the midst of preparing a new double album of Janis Joplin songs. The in-concert album will feature several songs never before released, as well as some of Janis' classics.

Diana Ross

Work is about half-way complete on Diana Ross's new film "Mahogany." In the film - the first to be produced by Motown Records - Diana plays a secretary who becomes an international model and designer.

Motown head Berry Gordy has just taken over as director of the film, mid-way through shooting. Gordy replaces the original director Tony Richardson. According to Daily Variety, Gordy felt that Richardson "didn't quite capture the feeling of blackness - the black point of view" which the film hopes to put across.

Herbie Hancock

Herbie Hancock, considered one of the better jazz musicians around today, says he's getting a little "funkier" and enjoying it.

Herbie admits that he used to think: "my experimental music was more valuable than James Brown's or Sly Stone's... I realized I was wrong. I had neglected straight music."

Now, by adding a funkier rhythm 'n blues style to much of his music, Herbie says he's "having a ball." So, apparently, are his audiences. "Now, we're doing five concerts a week," he says. "We're not playing the smaller clubs anymore. We walk out on stage and see 3,000 to 4,000 people. And they're ready to hear the music."

In addition, his crossover album, "Headhunters," which combines jazz with a more popular sound, has become a big hit. As for the future, Herbie says his music will continue to "spread out into a wider spectrum."

John Phillips

John Phillips, composer-singer for the Mamas and the Papas, is currently writing a musical film with his wife Genevieve. The film is to be called "Space", and it spins the tale of an astronaut who meets a girl from another planet. Genevieve will star as the extraterrestrial girl.

Although the Phillips are now living in New York, John admits "I'll probably be held largely responsible for the migration to California and the population explosion there." Phillips says that people still come up to him and tell him they moved to California

because of his song, "California Dreaming."

Phillips also says - in an interview with Viva Magazine - that he and his current wife Genevieve are both "terribly close" to John's former wife, Michelle of the Mamas and the Papas.

TV Highlights

FRI., JAN. 17

STARDUST THEATRE - Lust for Life, 1956, 122 minutes. Kirk Douglas, Anthony Quinn. Based on Van Gough's unusual and uneven life told in all its savage torment. Quinn won his second Oscar for his performance as Van Gough's closest friend and severest critic. Channel 5.

CINEMA - "Mon oncle Benjamin". Comedy produced by Edouard Molinaro, with Jacques Brel, Claude Jade and Bernard Blier. (Fr. 69) Channel 11.

SAT., JAN. 18

C.T.V. ACADEMY PERFORMANCE - The Owl and The Pussycat - Barbra Streisand stars as a prostitute who falls in love with a struggling inhibited writer in this warm and wacky comedy feature. Channel 3.

SUN., JAN. 19

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY SPECIAL - This Britain: Heritage Of The Sea - This is the story of an island people, their traditions and pageantry - a people whose lives have always been shaped and influenced by the sea. Channel 3.

UNTAMED WORLD - European Forest - Rare predatory animals of Europe, including the genet, European wildcat, eagle owl and peregrine falcon are studied in this episode shot primarily in Germany and Eastern France.