



LIBERACE and members of the Exso Tripoli steelband pose before the cameras at the Phoenix Theatre Arizona.

SWEET PAN FROM 'THOSE HANDSOME T'DAD BOYS'

By IRWIN SANDY

LIBERACE had to be good. Trinidad's Tripoli Steelband was on the same bill with the internationally-acclaimed concert pianist at the Phoenix Star Theatre, Arizona, United States.

Trinidad's performance "boggled the mind with delight. They staggered first sighters with their brilliance," cries the January 14 issue of the "Phoenix Gazette."

"Arizona Republic," another newspaper, shouts to all those who missed the star-spangled opening on January 13. They pined on various heights of sawed-off oil drums with concrete lids to bring forth sounds ranging from bass viola to French horn to organ to balalaika, to electronic organ to piccolo."

PHENOMENAL

And says the January 14 issue of the "Los Angeles Examiner"

"The group stopped at City Hall at the request of the Bureau of Music and Councilman Gilbert W. Lindsey. After hearing the band, Lindsey said the southeast area of Los Angeles should have an opportunity to hear

thing—Trinidad's steelband music has taken the film capital of the world—California's fancy; and is "with it" in America's film capital Phoenix, Arizona.

According to Hina Bretner, "Republic's" music critic, "the Original Trinidad Tripoli Steelband is a phenomenal act."

Continues the critic: "Freely translated, that means they are a large group of hand some young men from the island of Trinidad."

Another music critic, Larry Hummel, explodes in enthusiasm: "It took major talent to captivate the audience after the Trinidad organization left the stage."

"At the end of their segment," he continues, "the Trinidad band departed the stage one at a time, carrying their instruments with them. It was a good thing, too, because the audience would have screamed one encore after another if they had all remained on stage to take a final bow."

From Arizona, Tripoli, now on

an American tour with Liberace, goes on to Salt Lake City, Las Vegas and San Francisco.

Perhaps the most amusing piece on the steelband comes from a writer in the "Los Angeles Herald-Examiner": "The band used oil drum pans and a rhythmic section of drums, cow bells and tambor. They hammer on the drums with sledge weights from six to ten pounds."

Band captain Hugh Dorde says in a letter to the "Evening News": "The band is thinking whether it will get time off to take part in the American Jazz Festival to be held in San Diego, California, this year."

"This will be a good opportunity. We will be playing on the same bill with Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Ray Charles, Sammy Davis Jr., Harry Belafonte, Nancy Wilson, Aretha Franklin and Frank Sinatra."

GOOD NEWS FOR CARNIVAL VISITORS

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