

Nashville This Week



SHARON ALLEN

Opryland Holding Auditions

Opryland is sending its audition team to over 29 cities coast to coast this year to search for approximately 350 singers, dancers, dance captains, conductor/pianists, musicians, stage managers, and technicians.

Conducting the audition tour will be the entertainment director, manager, choreographer, show director, musical director, a pianist/accompanist, and a receptionist.

According to Opryland's Entertainment Manager John Haywood, the company looks for performers proficient in virtually all styles of American music, with versatility being the key factor. Entertainers must have good stage presence and personality. Musicians must be able to sight read, and windwind players must be proficient doublers.

Opryland has several success stories, among them Cynthia Rhodes, who appeared in "Flashdance," costarred with John Travolta in "Staying Alive," and is currently starring in the movie "Runaway" with Tom Selleck.

Cynthia Leake portrays Mary Hartman Bryant in "The Bear"; Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio portrayed Al Pacino's sister in "Scarface" and is now acting on Broadway in "A Human Comedy"; and Denise DiRenzo's Broadway credits include "Cats" and "A Chorus Line."

Opryland alumni can also be seen on television. Perry Stephens portrays heartthrob Jack Forbes on the daytime soap "Loving," and Valerie Stephenson is featured in the new nighttime television series "Dreams."

For a copy of the itinerary or more details about the audition tour, write Opryland Entertainment Department, 2802 Opryland Dr., Nashville, TN 37214; (615) 889-6600, ext. 4343.

Wrangler Country Showdown Set

It must be the season to discover new talent. Wild Turkey held its contest last week, Opryland is hitting the road for an audition tour, and this week at the Grand Ole Opry House Brenda Lee and Jim Stafford will host the 1984 Wrangler Country Showdown.



Brenda Lee & Jim Stafford: Talent Search

Two hundred contestants who won at the state level will compete the first night.

Finals will be taped to air in January on the Nashville Network.

Winners will receive \$50,000 in cash, a 1984 Ram Tough Van from Dodge (contest cosponsor), a recording contract with MTM Music Group, and a booking contract with Limeliter. First and second runners up will receive a van plus \$15,000 and \$10,000 respectively.

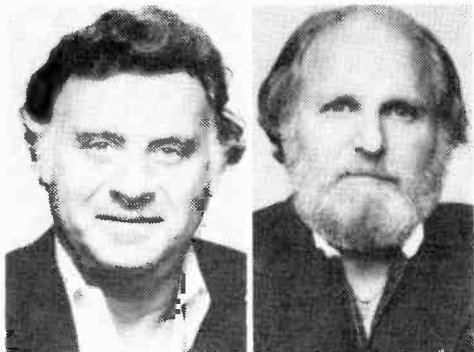
Last year's winners, the John Arnold Band, currently have a single out on Compeat, "How We Gonna Know If It's Love." WJKZ/Nashville is promoting the contest by giving away 50 tickets for the competition. Otherwise, admission is \$3 with proceeds going to the Opry Trust Fund.

MTM . . . On Music Row

Three music industry veterans have combined forces to open the MTM Music Group here in Nashville. Tommy West will serve as Senior VP, Alan C. Bernard is VP/Special Projects, and Howard Stark joined MTM as a music consultant in 1982 and was instrumental in forming the MTM Music Group.



Tommy West



Howard Stark

Alan Bernard

Though they haven't officially signed anyone, the trio states they are seriously looking at five acts (all new artists). Expect their first release around the first of the year.

West In Alien Flick?

Dottie West is filming a movie titled "Aurora" about a UFO that crashed in the town Aurora, TX in the 1880s. She plays a widow whose house is the center of the sequences of events.



Single-Minded Discussion: Dottie West and her producer Jerry Crutchfield (left) met with Permian President Chuck Robinson (right) in Dallas to discuss plans for the next single to be released on the "Just Dottie" LP.

The film is based on newspaper clippings and eyewitness accounts of the event. The show, starring Jack Elam, Peter Brown, and Spanky McFarland (of Little Rascals fame), will be released around Easter.

Ms. West will perform original songs written for the script.

BITS & PIECES: The Oaks' William Lee Golden and Luetta Calloway will be married this Sunday (Nov. 10) in her hometown, Las Vegas . . . Talk about dubious distinctions: congratulations to Tim Menzies and Jerry Ray Johnson of Bandana for winning the goat-milking championships at Indiana's Lake Country Fair . . . Permian Records just signed Conway Twitty's daughter Kathy to an exclusive recording agreement, and negotiations have been completed with the Merit Music Co. for recording Ed Hunnicut . . . Now that I've mentioned signings, Warner Bros. just signed seven new acts: Dennis Bottoms, a writer at Warner Bros. Music; Jessica Boucher, a former Louisiana DJ, demo singer, and duet partner of Joe Stampley; Darrel Clanton, formerly on Audiograph Records; Denise Darper, a songwriter and backup singer; the Forrester Sisters; Terri Gibbs; and Del Shannon (and I know you're not too young to remember him. C'mon, fess up, you remember "Runaway" now don't ya!) . . . We knew when Pam Green left Tennessee for the Big Apple that one day she'd be in front of the cameras. Look for her in Deborah Allen's new video along with . . . David Keith!

Just thought you'd like to know!



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Country News
Next Week's Guest:
DON WILLIAMS

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