



*Glenys, Clive and Tony talk to Dana Valery in the foyer of a New York hotel. Glenys seems rather concerned . . . can it be that Dana is explaining how many people take a percentage of a pop singer's income?*

We had all been hoping we'd win one of the Saris and the news about winning two was just like being told that we'd won the first and second prizes in the Irish Sweep.

We are very happy for Dave Marks and wish we could shake him by the hand right now. Our thoughts and feelings about this wonderful success include a strong desire to thank all our fabulous fans and friends in South Africa, to express our deep appreciation to our recording company—and particularly to thank Ray Walter our producer. We are also grateful to everyone in the S.A.B.C. for the fair and efficient way in which they conducted the SARI 1968 awards competition.

To the other entrants who gained Sari awards we extend our heartiest congratulations and to those who did not make it this time we say most sincerely "Better luck next time."

It is one of our fondest hopes that more South African artistes will come to America—the great country of challenge and opportunity.

After studying carefully the

the American and British groups with whom we have appeared or have seen on stage and TV, we are firmly convinced that many South African artistes and musicians would stand an excellent chance of success despite the highly competitive "market". Originality is the most important single factor for success, particularly in regard to choice of material. For a group to have an original sound is of the utmost importance—and this stems mainly from original compositions which are not necessarily played strictly to the composer's own arrangement but to the style and feeling of the group. This may sound strange but it is true that if a group is merely playing strictly to the arrangement of somebody else they are performing like any studio musicians. Of course, a group or an artiste must always bear in mind what their particularly stick to it.

In the same way that South African recording companies have suddenly awakened to the fact that we have composers, groups and solo artistes comparable with any in the world, we feel that the overseas record-

ing companies and agencies are being similarly alerted.

We think of Dana Valery who has made a great impact here and who appeared on the Jerry Lewis TV show with us recently. Many other South Africans who could be equally successful if afforded the opportunity. To name just a few, the Bats, the Flames, Freedom's Children, Una Valli; in the opera field, Joyce Barker; in folk, Des Lindberg and Dawn Silver and, amongst the composers, David Marks and John Edmunds. There are many other groups and artistes in South Africa whose names one could mention as highly suitable competitors for the American entertainment scene and we look forward to the day when their names will also appear in lights on the big marquees.

We've lost count of the number of people who prophesied that we would never get overseas—or ever have a world-wide hit record—but persistence and determination to put across our style and image has not only proved them wrong but is paying big dividends and winning us coveted awards. \$\$



THE SARI Awards have dominated the musical scene this past month and, although the results did not please everybody, some of the awards were well-deserved, particularly those won by Virginia Lee, Peter Lotis, Min Shaw and Nico Carstens.

I ran into Gene Rockwell at the Sari Award ceremony and he gave me the news that he has switched record labels. In future he will be recording for Brigadiers and—hold your breath, Rockwell fans!—his first album for the new label will be in Afrikaans.

The recording will be marketed under Gene's real name, which happens to be Gert Smith. Good luck to him!

Lance James, one of the backroom boys of the radio world and basically a very shy person, has been selected to provide actor Franz Marx with his "on-screen" singing voice in the new Road Show musical film, *Dante Bosman*, which is based on the life of the late Afrikaans composer. Min Shaw, who stars in the film, has just



completed a great album with Lance.

Excitement still vibrates in the air about E.M.I.'s new vocal discovery, singing pro' soccer player Dennis John. Dennis and folk artiste Cornelia may well be the two most exciting newcomers of 1968. It was a pity that Dennis was disqualified from the Sari race this year due to the fact that some of the musical backing on his first album, *I'm On My Way*, were arranged and