

From Smoke and Mirrors, Millions

David Copperfield saws himself into two bloody halves in his new show, but its sold-out Broadway run is no illusion. Due to his vigorous schedule—twice as many performances as usual—“Dreams & Nightmares” will reap the highest five-week grosses ever (about \$6 million) on Broadway by the time it closes, on Dec. 29. The magic is spectacular, though sneering New York crowds still have to put up with the syrupy, Vegas-style shtik. Copperfield’s audience is mostly “girls dragging their boyfriends,” he told NEWSWEEK, “and when I see someone who’s going to be cynical, I pull his wife up on stage.” What does girlfriend Claudia Schiffer think of the show’s erotic dancing and sexual-fantasy sequences? “She likes those parts best,” says the magic man. And you’re still not married?



One of David’s ‘Dreams’



Exner (shown in 1993) says she was carrying JFK’s baby 34 years ago

JFK: Secrets & Lies?

SHE CERTAINLY WASN’T THE ONLY OTHER WOMAN. BUT AFTER 35 years, **Judith Exner** is the sole mistress of the Kennedy age who’s kissed and told. In 1977, she admitted to bedding JFK in the White House, and in 1988, revealed that she’d been a messenger between Kennedy and mob boss Sam Giancana. Last week Exner—62 and terminally ill with cancer—delivered a final zinger: She once carried JFK’s child. When she informed Kennedy in January 1963 that she was pregnant, Exner tells Liz Smith in January’s *Vanity Fair*, he asked, “What are you going to do?” Then he corrected himself and said, “I’m sorry. What are we going to do?” JFK didn’t mind if she kept the baby, but she didn’t want it. So, at his suggestion, she asked Giancana to arrange an abortion. The Kennedys have never responded to Exner’s charges, which don’t stop at the bedroom. Elsewhere in the article, Exner claims Giancana—who was murdered in 1975—was involved with JFK and Bobby Kennedy in a Fidel Castro assassination plot.

Slay Bells

AT LEAST MRS. BENNETT knows what *not* to get her husband for Xmas. Former drug czar **Bill Bennett**—who last week blasted retailers for hawking profane CDs—wouldn’t enjoy “Christmas on Death Row.” That L.A. label has Snoop Doggy Dogg and others rapping “Silent Night” and tunes like “Santa Claus Goes Straight to the Ghetto.” A

sample: “The first day of Xmas/ my homeboy gave to me/ a sack of that Krazy Glue/ and told me to smoke it up slowly.” A real stocking stuffer.



Is This Frank’s Final Bow?

ON HIS 81ST BIRTHDAY LAST week, Ole Blue Eyes had many of us shedding tears. Several tributes on Dec. 12 marked another year for **Frank Sinatra**, amid concerns over the cantankerous crooner’s failing health. The Empire State Building was bathed in blue light. On TV,



The Chairman shortly before his 80th birthday, in 1995

“48 Hours” saluted him with performance footage and an interview with pal Joey Bishop. On “Turning Point,” Nancy Sinatra discussed the pinched nerve and pneumonia he suffered last month—but not the rumor that he’d had a stroke or whether we’ll ever hear The Voice sing again. Sinatra spent his 81st secluded with his family. “We asked him the other day, ‘What do you want for your birthday?’” Nancy recalled. “And guess what he said? ‘Another birthday.’”

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