

# ON WITH THE SHOW

By PERICLES ALEXANDER

JACKIE ALLOWAY'S BACK home and the Spotlight Club's got her Saturday night.

The Tulsa-cum-Broadway actress-singer, who has been quietly visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Neely Alloway, 3336 E. Haskell Place, will make the olio scene again at a performance of "The Drunkard."

It's a familiar scene where she once trod the boards as Mehitabel in the hiss-and-miss melodrama.

The Spotlight Club was "where the action was" when Jackie was a coed at the University of Tulsa on scholarships from the club and the Tulsa Broadway Theater League. She saw a lot of action there as a fledgling performer.

*The lyric soprano made it by local stages—Little Theater's "Guys and Dolls" and TU's "Ballad of Baby Doe"—to Broadway after a summer season with the Kansas City Starlight Theater. The decade of the 60s saw her career take shape and carry her into the mainstream of Broadway show business in a flag-waving musical hit with Joel Grey.*

"George M!" put the exclamation point on Jackie's career thus far. She sang the role of Fay Templeton in the show about "Mr. Yankee Doodle Dandy." George M. Cohan, for the entire Broadway run at the Palace from April 10, 1968, to April 26, 1969.

Performance after performance, the statuesque blonde knocked audiences cold as she warbled a grand old Cohan tune, "Mary," on a spiral theatrical staircase. Joe Layton's staging of this scene was theatrically impeccable.

**JACKIE LITERALLY WENT** from the Palace to the White House in "George M!" Richard Nixon and his family attended a performance on Broadway on Nov. 13, 1968, eight days after his election as President. The cast came to Washington, D.C., to present a tab version of "George M!" at the Inaugural Gala in January, 1969.

This could have been the germ of the idea for entertainment evenings the President has now arranged for the White



JACKIE ALLOWAY

House. At any rate on George Washington's birthday this year, the Broadway musical, "1776," will play the White intract.

The curtain came down on the Broadway run of "George M!" in April, 1969, but went up again 10 days later as the original Broadway company with Jackie launched a national tour.

She left the show last fall shortly before Joel Grey vacated the Cohan role.

She went to Hollywood to appear in a short-lived musical version of Henry Fielding's "Tom Jones." The show was a disaster but she came through it unscathed with good notices in the role of Lady Bellaston.

One aisle-sitter wrote that she "handled her role with marvelous delivery and a beautiful voice." With three other leading members of the cast she sang of the musical's most solid songs, "Stay With Me."

Jackie will be Broadway-bound again next week.

TU Grad Fills Understudy Role

# Tulsa's 'Jackie' Finds Hit Show All Work, No Thrills

By EARL WILSON

World Broadway Columnist

NEW YORK — "Everyone says we're a big hit," says Tulsa's Jacqueline Alloway, of *Fade Out—Fade In*, "but I'm waiting for the time we can all sit back and enjoy it a little like the rest of the people."

Jackie, the gorgeous daughter of Neely and Eva Alloway, 3336 E. Haskell Place, is making her Broadway debut in the big Carol Burnett musical . . . and though the crowds and critics proclaim it a hit, so far it seems too much like work to be a hit.

"We've had more people out sick and more replacements, and each one means an additional rehearsal," says Jackie, who herself stepped up into an understudy's role when Tina Louise left for a TV series, and her understudy took over for the star.

## Wacky Pattern

"The whole pattern's been wacky," the blue-eyed blond who portrays Jean Harlow added. "Two days after the show opened we were shut down by the theater strike. I thought, 'Some hit! Open two days and already we're out of work.'"

What most people don't realize is that a Broadway show doesn't go on a sabbatical merely because it's opened and been accepted. There are understudy rehearsals, rehearsals called by a director when he thinks a performance has gone sloppy, cast-change rehearsals, and in general, too many rehearsals.

"When Carol was out for a week for some minor surgery, the whole company had to rehearse with Betty Hutton. I felt sorry for her. One week's not nearly enough time to learn such an exhaustive role. One night she forgot her line and asked the conductor what it was. The conductor hunched his shoulders and yelled up at her, 'What are you asking me for? I don't know!'"

## Not Thrilled

Such are the things that turn a director's hair white and also enliven a chorus girl's evening on stage.

"I can't honestly say that I'm thrilled just to be in a chorus of a show," she says. "If I had a big part, then I'd be thrilled. No, I haven't gone on for Judy Cassmore (Tina Louise's replacement). If I was Judy I'd go on no matter how sick I was."



Jackie as Jean Harlow with Bernard Geis, publisher of 'Harlow'

Jackie's dedication to theatre and singing dates back to her youth in Tulsa. She attended Will Rogers High School and received her degree in music from the University of Tulsa in 1963.

"Professor Louis Cunningham was particularly helpful to me," said the blond lyric soprano. "He was the one who kept telling me to go to New York."

## Married Tulsan

While Jackie was playing Adelaide in the Tulsa Little Theatre production of "Guys and Dolls," she met and later married Tom McGill, another Tulsa native and, according to Mrs. McGill, "one of the best leading man tenor-types around if anyone'll listen."

"We'd love to work in a show together," she says. "At this point, I'd particularly like to get a good leading part in an off-Broadway show, because it provides a tremendous showcase. You can call in all the producers and agents to see you."

Jackie says there are times when she misses the hills, streams, "and the sound of quiet!" out west—but that for the most part she loves life in New York.

"The great thing," she says, "is that any hour of the day or night, you can go out and find anything you want. The city never sleeps. But the bad thing is, that, as a result, so often you find that you don't either."

**Jackie Alloway** graduated from the University of Tulsa then headed to Broadway for a career where most who try don't make it. She did.

She had a leading role in the original cast of *George M* that also included Joel Grey and Bernadette Peters. Her show-stopping song, "For It Was Mary," can be heard on the album. She played opposite Howard Keel in a production of *Man of LaMancha* and was personally selected by composer Richard Rodgers for a revival of *By Jupiter*, which Rodgers wrote with Oscar Hammerstein II.

Jackie met and married Ron Reichmann and they raised three children in Pennsylvania. Returning to the Tulsa area several years ago, she spends a lot of time doing volunteer work for causes including AIDS and her church, Boston Avenue Methodist. At her home in Sand Springs, Jackie paints on slate, which is then used in decorative tables sold through boutique galleries.



**Jackie Reichmann**

