



◀ **READY** for act, Darvas watches as Julia applies last touches of make-up.

HY GARDNER FEATURETTE

(See Cover)

TOSS YOUR GIRL

... but not everyone can do it like Darvas & Julia

CHANCES ARE you've never heard of Darvas & Julia. They've never been in movies or television, or appeared in person in your home town. Yet, when they open at Wilbur Clark's swank Desert Inn in Las Vegas, Nev., next February, they'll receive one of the highest salaries ever paid a dance team, \$6,000 per week.

The fact that a pair of unknowns are able to command such a princely salary is a paradox in a profession where the yardstick of a performer's pay is his box-office appeal. When shrewd cookies like Clark and (just now) Lou Walters, of New York's Latin Quarter, take that much moonjah out of the till, you can bet this team has plenty on the ball.

• *Their routines are so breathtaking and unbelievable, when you see them work you begin to wonder whether they're dancers or magicians.* What makes their turns, twists and throws all the more remarkable is the slight difference in weight between the man and the girl he handles like a drum major brandishing a baton. Darvas' weight of 149 hasn't changed an ounce in seven years. Julia hovers around 128. Yet, in one flash, he holds his arm out-right, without support, and balances

her on it as you might hold your pet pooch.

• "It's a funny thing," he says. "When we started to work together in 1945, Julia weighed only 98 pounds. As time marched on she picked up weight so gradually I didn't notice any difference. If we'd just met today, I doubt if I could lift her without exertion."

Let Them Dance!

DARVAS was a wallflower until, when he was 22, friends encouraged him to study dancing seriously with his half-sister, Julia.

Meanwhile, he had completed a course in sociology at the University of Budapest. On the side, he edited a crossword-puzzle magazine, and a little later managed to pick up the European ping-pong championship. (Doesn't play much nowadays.)

• Since then, Darvas and Julia have danced in almost every country in the world. They still remember the time the mayor of Beirut, Lebanon, wouldn't let them perform—their act was too dangerous, he claimed.

• Darvas and Julia talked him into letting them appear, and on the first night Julia broke a bone in her ankle!

They remember, too, a night in London. Julia wore a costume with a knitted wool effect.

During the performance Darvas, who is very careful, saw a thread hanging from her dress. He reached down to pull it off, but it kept coming.

By the end of the number, the floor was thick with raveled wool, and Julia had lost most of her costume.

The movies are sure to discover Darvas and Julia soon. When they do, I have just one request to make of the moguls. When you hire them for a picture, fellers, let them *dance* in it!



MUSCULAR Darvas, who weighs only 149 lbs., balances his 128-pound sister by one foot.

WITH ease of ping-pong champion returning a serve, Darvas tosses Julia and catches her without missing beat.

DARVAS and Julia
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