

An entertainment program was also

## Local Muralist on "Lookin' Better"

Arturo Lindsay, an urban muralist in Hartford, is profiled on CPTV's *Lookin' Better* series on Monday, January 30 at 8:00 p.m. This past summer, the *Lookin' Better* crew followed the painting of his large mural at the corner of Lawrence and Park Streets in Hartford. He designed the mural to convey publically the spirit and identity of the neighborhood of which it is a part. The painting depicts important figures in Puerto Rican history and was executed by nearly a dozen neighborhood teenagers under Lindsay's direction.

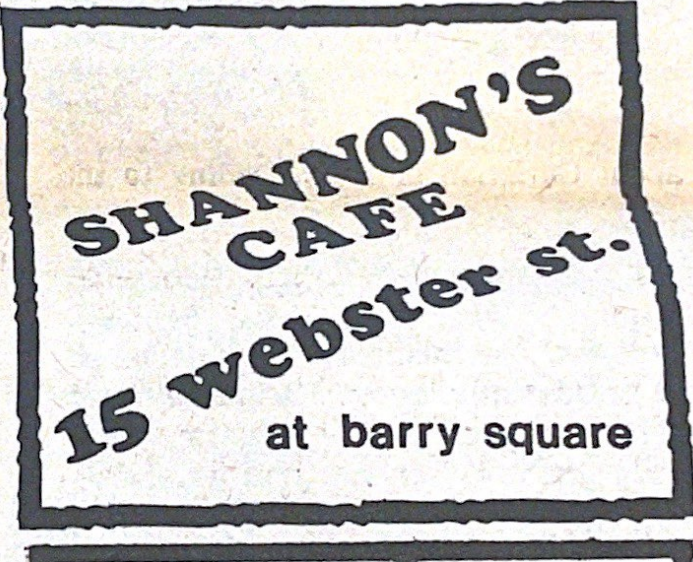
If he could, Lindsay would "paint the town." He sees his art as an important social force as well as an aesthetic one. But he tries to maintain a balance between the two, and describes his highly decorative, colorful style as a means to attract the viewer to the mural's social content. For he is committed to art as an effective means of education, particularly for young people.

Interviewed while production of the mural was underway, Lindsay told of his

royal garments, to pass out the gifts.

## "Lookin' Better"

concern about the young people helping him paint. He worries that they are poorly educated and lack job skills, and sees their participation in the mural to be a meaningful experience in their lives. One young painter comments, "This part of the wall, it's mine. As long as I've been paintin' on it, it's mine, and it always will be."



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# Ethnic Life



Danny Rivera and Liliana Vega from Springfield at the Three Kings Day Concert. (Photo by Juan Fuentes)

## Danny Rivera's Music Brings Joy of Living

By Lee Paquette

Frankly, this norteamericano had never heard of Danny Rivera until a few months ago, in connection with the Mundo Real program on CPTV.

I saw Danny perform at the Hartford Civic Center on January 6, Three Kings Day, traditionally an important holiday in Puerto Rico and other Latin lands. Now I wish that everyone had heard of Danny Rivera.

For close to two hours Danny held the stage alone, singing and communicating with his audience. Most were enthralled, with good reason. As a performer, Danny is polished without being slick.

And although he is a thorough professional, his personality and stage presence came through as down-to-earth.

Many had referred to him as "the greatest Latin American entertainer today," but that description had no meaning to this reviewer until Three Kings Day. Having seen him, I can now venture the opinion that he has got to be one of the greatest entertainers in the world.

The best way to describe Danny's singing and the playing of Pedro Rivera Toledo conducting his 42-piece orchestra is that they produced music filled with the joy of living. A really solid joy, not of the saccharin "You Light Up My Life" variety. It was hard to sit there without smiling.

Danny's songs had ordinary enough themes—life, love, family, home—and all were sung in Spanish. But one need not have understood a word to capture the essence that was projected. During the more up-beat tunes Danny's feet literally hovered a few inches above the stage on several occasions. He brought the appreciative audience to its feet more than once.

In one sense Danny's effect can be compared to the late Elvis Presley, who had the women swooning in the aisles, but who also commanded the ap-

preciation of the male audience. Danny's medium, however, is not rock, but Latin. Several times he invited young ladies from the audience onto the stage, or to help him with verses.

The only letdown of the evening was the attendance, an official 4,301. "I was disappointed in that," said producer Frank Marrero, "considering this was the most important event ever to happen in the Hispanic community here. But in terms of the whole emotional experience, including the performance the next day at Somers State Prison, it was well worth it."

Marrero described the scene at Somers when Danny arrived, with black, Puerto Rican, and white prisoners sitting in an obviously segregated manner.

"Everybody was integrated by the time the concert was over," said Marrero. "We had prisoners dancing on the stage. A Puerto Rican was scheduled to present a painting to Danny, and a black prisoner persuaded the warden to let him return to his cell to get a painting of his own for Danny. It was an unbelievable high...a beautiful experience...It's strange that the prisoners seemed more free to express their feelings than those on the outside."

Marrero says that despite the disappointing attendance, he is not giving up and will bring Danny back to the area, "without any doubt."

He is now working on producing a type of cinema verite documentary on the events leading up to the concert, and the concert itself. Marrero hopes to have it ready for Connecticut Public Television in February.

Unfortunately, Hartford's only daily paper did not even review the Danny Rivera concert. People will have to find out what they missed some other way. Hopefully he will return soon, and more people will be able to enjoy his style of entertainment, filled with the joy of living.



The Three Kings arrive to give out presents in the basement of Immaculate Conception Church.

## Three Kings At Immaculate

The Spanish American Center staff distributed gifts to children on Three Kings Day, January 6, in the basement of Immaculate Conception Church on Park Street.

An entertainment program was also

presented at that time for about 250 children and parents who attended. This included music, singing, and dancing. The highlight of the afternoon came when the Three Kings appeared, dressed in royal garments, to pass out the gifts.

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