

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATE

Contact: Bob McGill



Mailed March 26, 1985

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - There are some YSU connections to the television documentary, "Robert Clary, A5714: A Memoir of Liberation," which follows television actor Robert Clary to his home in Paris and then to Buchenwald concentration camp in East Germany where he lived with death for more than 30 months.

Dr. Saul S. Friedman, history professor at Youngstown State University, wrote the script and was co-producer with Dr. Herbert Hochhauser, director of Jewish Studies at Kent State University.

In addition, Dr. Friedman was instrumental in tracking down color footage of the liberation of Buchenwald, taken by U.S. Air Corps personnel in 1945 but never declassified and seen by the public until now.

Another YSU connection is the show's musical theme, played by Dana School of Music professor and pianist Roman Rudyntsky of Boardman. The music, recorded by the YSU Media Center, is "Peatbog Soldiers," a concentration camp marching song.

Also, "Robert Clary" contains some scenes from the KSU Stark Campus when Clary spoke there in April 1984 to an audience that included Austintown and Canfield High School students.

The hour-long film chronicles the dehumanization of French Jews during the Holocaust.

It will be premiered at 8 p.m. April 15 over Channel 25, WVIZ Cleveland, and repeated by that station at 10 p.m. April 21.

MORE

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Channel 45, WNEO Akron-Youngstown, will show the program at 8 p.m. April 18. It has also been requested for April showings by other Public Broadcast Systems stations in many major cities in the U.S.

Robert Clary, better known for his role as LeBeau of "Hogan's Heroes" and Robert in "Days of Our Lives," was born in France and was one of five children from a family of 16 who survived the Holocaust. For the past five years he has been a volunteer with the Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, making speeches to community and educational groups about the country.

This program, made by a team of scholars and technicians representing Kent State University, interweaves his talk at the Stark campus with dramatic, on-site shots of Clary in a cattle car outside Bobigny, France, and inside Buchenwald. Until now, no other western film crew had been permitted in that concentration camp in East Germany in the past 40 years.

Director of the show was Budd Margolis of Cleveland.

Dr. Friedman, a member of the YSU faculty since 1969, is also visiting professor of Holocaust and Jewish History at Kent State.

He is the author of six books, including The Oberammergau Passion Play: A Lance Against Civilization; Land of Dust: Palestine at the Turn of the Century; Incident at Massena; Amcha: An Oral Testament of the Holocaust; Pogromchik, which dealt with the Ukrainian massacres in 1919; and No Haven for the Oppressed, a study of the Roosevelt Administration's policy toward Jewish refugees.

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YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - A talented student cast will provide an unforgettable touch of Scandinavian dramatic power when University Theatre of Youngstown State University presents Henrik Ibsen's "Hedda Gabler."

Performances are scheduled at 8 p.m. April 11-13 and 18-20. There will also be a Sunday Matinee at 3 p.m. on April 14. All shows will be in the Spotlight Arena Theatre in Bliss Hall, Wick Avenue.

One of the most powerful dramas in the modern theatre, "Hedda Gabler" serves as a stirring study of power and its effects on society. This production will feature a strong cast composed of veteran performers and new faces on the University Theatre stage.

Kim Katsaras of Campbell will appear in the title role, portraying a strong-willed woman who attempts to control the lives of others in the face of constraints placed on her by social custom.

American and European actresses have long considered Hedda Gabler to be the ultimate role for all great women of the theatre. Noted actresses who have starred in the role include Eleonora Duse, Mrs. Patrick Campbell, Peggy Ashcroft, Tallulah Bankhead, Eva Le Gallienne, Maggie Smith, and Claire Bloom.

David Stiver of Youngstown will portray George Tesman, husband to the indomitable Hedda. Judge Brack, friend of the family, will be played by Michael Angelo Youngstown. Tom Pesce, Youngstown, will portray Eilert Løvborg who, as protagonist, finds himself pitted in a power struggle with both George Tesman and Hedda. Løvborg's inspiration, Mrs. Elvsted, will be played by Kassy Vogel-DelGarbino of Boardman.

MORE

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Also in the cast are Janet Oliver, North Jackson, as the self-assured Aunt Julianna, and Paula McConnell, Canton, as the Tesman's loyal maid, Berta.

The production is directed by Dr. Dennis Henneman of Boardman, YSU coordinator of theatre.

Tina Lavorata of Liberty Township is the stage manager and Paula McConnell assistant director.

The set is created by Dr. Frank Castronovo, YSU's theatrical designer. University costumer Jane Shanabarger has designed and made the costumes. Both are from Boardman. Lighting design is by Mark Samuel of Sharon, Pa.

In keeping with the atmosphere of the play, a special smorgasbord will be served at 6 p.m. opening night, April 11, at YSU's Wicker Basket Restaurant, which is located in Kilcawley Center on Spring Street.

The Scandinavian menu includes: Norwegian roast leg of beef au jus with baked vegetables, Oslo broiled scrod with broccoli sauce, dilled brussels sprouts and ham, baked rice with peas and mushrooms, tossed salad greens with creamy dill and horseradish dressing, marinated green beans and tarragon, Norwegian style potato salad, and strawberry cream pie delight with orange rind. The cost of the buffet is \$6.50 and reservations must be made in advance.

Reservations for the play and "First Nighter's Buffet" may be made by phoning the University Theatre Box Office at (216) 742-3105 between 10:15 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. weekdays. Play tickets are \$4 for the general public, \$3 for high school students and senior citizens. Admission is free for YSU students with I.D. cards.

Because of limited seating, early reservations are recommended. Parking is available in the Wick Avenue parking deck adjacent to Bliss Hall.

"Hedda Gabler" is presented as part of the cultural offerings of the Department of Speech Communication and Theatre of YSU's College of Fine and Performing Arts.

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