

FOR RELEASE:

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Mailed March 13, 1981

Contact: Bob McGill



YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Three men, alumni of Youngstown State University who have won wide acclaim in their artistic fields, will be guest performers and teachers during the university's "Gallery of the Arts Week," April 5 through 11.

In addition to performances and shows, free and open to the public, singer Gary Glaze, artist Ralph Humphrey, and actor Edward O'Neill will be "artists-in-residence" that week, teaching and participating in master class seminars with students and faculty.

A press conference is scheduled at 9 a.m. Monday, April 6, for all three artists in the YSU Telecommunications Center in Cushwa Hall.

One of the highlights of "Gallery of the Arts Week" will be five performances of a YSU University Theatre production, "The Owl and the Pussycat," which will be directed by Dr. William R. McGraw, dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

For all three artists, who live and work in New York City, it will be a return "home" and to YSU. Humphrey and O'Neill were born in Youngstown; Glaze was born in Pittsburgh but raised in Leavittsburg, Trumbull County.

Humphrey is a son of Mrs. Armella Humphrey, 6928 Glendale Ave., Boardman, and the late Ralph G. Humphrey. He graduated from Chaney High School in 1951.

O'Neill is a son of Edward and Ruth Quinlan O'Neill, 268 Crandall Ave. He graduated in 1964 from Ursuline High School, where he played baseball and football, and was chosen as middle guard of the All-City Football Team.

Glaze is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Glaze, now of 5572 Parkman Rd. NW, Warren. He was on the cross-country team and was in the band and chorus at Leavittsburg High, now LaBrae School District.

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YSU's programs are part of "Gallery of the Arts Week" coordinated by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Arts.

Similar programs by colleges and universities across the nation that week will illustrate that these educational institutions are making significant contributions to the arts through their graduates and alumni.

The special events at YSU featuring these three artists will be free and open to the public.

Opening performances will be a "Showcase" by O'Neill at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 5, in Bliss Recital Hall, Wick Avenue. He will present a sampling of famous roles he has played on Broadway, in movies, and on television, exhibiting his range of talents as an actor.

O'Neill's "Showcase" will be followed by a public reception for him in the Bliss Hall Gallery and Lounge.

At 9 a.m. Monday, the press conference for the three guest artists will be held in the Telecommunications Center.

Next in the spotlight will be Gary Glaze, who will present a public recital at 8 p.m. Monday in Bliss Recital Hall.

The opening of an exhibition of Ralph Humphrey's acrylic works will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, in Youngstown's famous Butler Institute of American Art on Wick Avenue adjacent to the campus.

The Humphrey exhibit will be featured at Butler Art for three weeks.

Another highlight of YSU's "Gallery of the Arts Week" will be a public awards ceremony honoring all three talented alumni at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Ford Auditorium of Bliss Hall.

Public performances of the University Theatre comedy, "The Owl and the Pussycat," will be April 8, 9, 10 and 11.

All three visiting artists have received acclaim and their stars are expected to go even higher in their professional careers.

Gary Glaze sang his first solo in Trinity Cathedral, Pittsburgh, when he was 9. In addition to singing in high school musicals at Leavittsburg, he also sang at weddings and church and social affairs.

He received a Bachelor of Music degree from YSU in 1960 and went on to earn a Master of Music degree at the University of Michigan, where he also completed doctoral course work.

He taught voice and music at Stetson University, Deland, Fla., convinced his vocation was teaching, but sang "all over Florida" in various engagements. After one performance, a stranger came back stage, complimented him on his fine tenor voice, and suggested he make singing his career. The retired New York City voice teacher urged him to go to New York.

Glaze made his voice debut with the Santa Fe Opera Co. His first fame came when he appeared as a member of the New York City Opera in a series of new productions of contemporary works that included the title role in Britten's "Albert Herring," Orsino in Ginastera's "Beatrice Cenci," and as Wilhelm in Henze's "The Young Lord." But it was his Tamino in Mozart's "Die Zauberflote" that established him as one of the outstanding young vocalists on the American scene. In 1969 "Musical America Magazine" named him the "outstanding young artist of the year."

Since then his roles in New York City Opera's new productions have ranged from Idamante in "Idomeneo" to David in "Die Meistersinger" and Alfred in "Die Fledermaus.

He has appeared as a guest artist with many symphonies, including those of Dallas, Buffalo, Milwaukee, Indianapolis and Rochester, N.Y., and with many opera companies across the U.S. and in Hawaii. He has sung at major festivals and with the Musica Aeterna at the Metropolitan Museum.

Recently Glaze sang Bach's "St. John Passion" with the Minnesota Orchestra, Mozart's "Requiem" and "Vespers" with the Mendelssohn Choir of Philadelphia, and Bach's "Mass in B Minor" at Carnegie Hall.

He has also had leading roles in revivals of "H.M.S. Pinafore" and "The Mikado" with New York City Opera, and in the acclaimed 1976 trans-continental tour of "Naughty Marietta" with Cyril Ritchard.

When Ralph James Humphrey was 6, one of his teachers told his mother the boy had unusual artistic talents. Today he is one of America's leading artists in ultra modern art, with works hanging in many major museums.

Among other activities at Chaney High he played football, but most of his spare time, including nights, was spent furiously painting everything from board to canvas.

Humphrey attended YSU in 1951-52, served in the Army in Korea and France, then returned to this university in 1959-60. He taught at Hartley House in New York City, at Bennington (Vt.) College, and at Hunter College in New York.

As his one-man exhibit at Butler Art will illustrate, his abstracts are done with acrylic paint that is physically dimensional and have a maximum effect when displayed with controlled lighting.

In 1961, the Guggenheim Museum in New York included Humphrey in the now legendary exhibition, "Abstract Expressionists and Imagists," which represented the major artists of America.

Writing in "Arts Magazine," Priscilla Holt said: "Humphrey's new works are splendid achievements by an unremittingly serious artist, and in their way are as moving as anything I have seen in recent abstract painting."

Wallace Stevens, in an intense review of Humphrey's work over the years wrote in "Artform Magazine" in 1977 of the artist's use of color and the thick three-dimensional paintings he now does: ". . .they include as part of themselves the intended relations with the emotional feeling of a viewer in a room."

His works are now in collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Dayton Art Institute, San Francisco Museum of Art, and Australian National Gallery, Canberra, and others.

He has had many one-man exhibitions and has been part of group exhibitions in France, Germany, Italy and throughout the U.S.

On the horizon is one of his greatest honors, a "Humphrey Retrospective," that is scheduled for the Chicago Institute of Art later this year.

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For Ed O'Neill, athletics was the thing. He was voted "Most Valuable Player" in Little League, was on the Youngstown YMCA swim team, and went on to play football at Ursuline High, where he was an All-City choice.

At YSU he played under the late Dwight "Dike" Beede, legendary Penguin coach, and his gridiron talents were enough to make him a draft choice of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

But he was cut from the squad his rookie year and returned to YSU. He had played the part of a priest in a play at Ursuline and stagelights still beckoned, so he began theatre studies in the YSU Spotlight Theatre program.

He played many leading roles for Spotlight and Youngstown Playhouse, including productions as diverse in character as "The Rose Tattoo," "The Bonds of Interest," and "Scuba Duba," and taught in several Youngstown schools.

Next he headed for New York where he studied with Frank Corsaro and at the Circle-in-the-Square Playhouse. His Off-Broadway credits included "Requiem for a Heavyweight" and "The Gentle People."

In 1979 O'Neill played a leading role in the Broadway production of "Knockout," and received critical acclaim for his chilling portrayal of the brutal young boxer, Paddy Klonski.

His film credits include feature roles in "Cruising," starring Al Pacino, and "The Dogs of War," starring Christopher Walker. He also appeared in the NBC Movie of the Week, "The Day the Women Got Even," and has been in many commercials.

Additional information on the YSU programs for the "Gallery of the Arts Week" may be obtained by calling the College of Fine and Performing Arts, (216) 742-3624.

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