

# Nimoy stars in Van Gogh dramatization

Leonard Nimoy, film, television and stage actor, will appear live in a one-man show, "Vincent: The Story of a Hero," presented at 8 p.m. March 17-19, by the Performing Arts department of the Detroit Institute of Arts in cooperation with the Guthrie Theatre of Minneapolis.

Performances are scheduled with a matinee at 1 p.m. March 19 in the art institute's auditorium/theatre.

Reserved seat tickets at \$8 and \$10 for the evenings and \$5 for the matinee are available in advance through the museum ticket office. Group, senior citizen and student rates may be obtained by calling 832-2730.

"Vincent" is a dramatization of the bond between the unrecognized and often-mentally ill 19th-century artist Vincent Van Gogh and Theo, his art-dealer

brother who supported him throughout his life.

TO COMPLEMENT the performances, the Detroit Institute of Arts will place three original Van Gogh paintings from its 101 galleries on exhibition in the theater lobby.

For his dual portrayal of both Vincent and Theo, actor Nimoy has devoted considerable time to research of the actual locations in which the brothers lived and of their now-legendary intimate correspondence.

As a result of Nimoy's own interest in the subject, an episode of "In Search Of..." the television series he hosts, will focus on Vincent Van Gogh. The episode will be televised locally on Sunday, March 16, the day before Nimoy's live Detroit appearance.

Nimoy said, "Our crew filmed Auvers, a suburb of Paris, where Vincent spent the last 10 years of his life. We found the cafe where he took his meals, and the room in which he died after a torturous final 70 days. I feel extremely close to the subject after that experience.

"MANY OF VAN GOGH'S" nearly 2,000 works are valued at over \$1 million each. During his lifetime he managed to sell only one — for \$80. Theo supported him, intellectually, spiritually and financially through all that. They both are heroes."

Nimoy, married, father of two, holder of a masters' degree in education, host of the "In Search Of..." television series, is seen on syndicated reruns of "Mission Impossible" and may be best-identified with his characterization of

Mr. Spock for the television series "Star Trek."

Last year he reprised his Spock role for "Star Trek: The Motion Picture" and co-starred in the remake of the science-fiction thriller "Invasion of the Body Snatchers."

His credits include television and movie roles, speaking engagements in more than 150 colleges and universities, numerous symphony orchestra narrations, Broadway, regional theater and summer stock performances, and a three-year tour of "Vincent."

Nimoy has written and published four books of poetry and photographs and his 1975 autobiography, "I Am Not Spock."

For tickets and reservation information for "Vincent," call the Detroit Institute of Arts ticket office at 832-2730.

## Melba Moore returns for week's stay at db's Club

Melba Moore — who rose to overnight success with her Tony Award for the hit Broadway musical "Parade" in 1970 — returns beginning Monday to db's Club in the Hyatt Regency Dearborn for a week.

Early in 1976, Ms. Moore's recording

career took off with her album, "This Is It" on Buddah, which included hits of the title tune and "Lean On Me." She and record producer Van McCoy shortly after got together for her second album, "Melba."

In addition to a continuing string of

recordings, Melba Moore has been a guest on television variety shows. An actress, she was recently lauded for her portrayal of Harriet Tubman on the ABC-TV special "The American Woman: Portraits of Courage" and appearances as spokeswoman for "Big Blue Marble," ITT's Emmy and Pea-

body Award winning public television series for children.

During Ms. Moore's current engagement at db's Club, there is one show at 8:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Shows Feb. 25 are 8 and 10:30 p.m.; Feb. 29 are 9 and 11:30 p.m.



### Becoming a lady

Buchner Gibbs as Henry Higgins and Kristin Reeves Beauchamp as Eliza Doolittle co-star in "Pygmalion," George Bernard Shaw's comedy about an illiterate flower girl transformed into a duchess. The production opens March 5, for a two-week run at Wayne State University's Studio Theatre in Detroit. Performances are scheduled for Feb. 29 and March 1. Further information is available from the box office, 557-2972.

## Drama 'Mulatto' slated at WSU Studio Theatre

"Mulatto" by black poet, novelist and playwright Langston Hughes will be presented at 8:30 p.m. beginning March 5 for a two-week run at Wayne State University's Studio Theatre. Performance times are 8:30 p.m. March 5-8 and 12-15, and 4:30 p.m. March 13, downstairs at the Hillberry Theatre in Detroit.

"Mulatto" was the first professionally produced play for Hughes. Prior to Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun," it was the longest-running Broadway play by a black author. It was also the basis for Hughes' libretto of "The

Barrier," an opera with musical score by Jan Meyerowitz.

"Mulatto" concerns the problems of blacks in a troubled South during the 1930s. The story deals with bigotry and prejudice within a racially mixed family. It centers around the attempts of Robert Lewis, the illegitimate son of a Southern plantation owner, Col. Thomas Norwood, and his black mistress, Cora Lewis, to come to grips with his heritage.

ANTHONY LUCAS will portray Robert Lewis, with Dennis Wroesch as the colonel and Darlene L. French as Cora.

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