

Mirror Images resemble stars

By Ethel Simmons
staff writer

EIGHT GUYS AND gals — who are dead ringers for celebrities in the entertainment world — are putting on their first professional show together as the Mirror Images.

George Chukalas of Troy is a construction worker who looks just like Robert Blake, star of the TV series about a colorful cop named Baretta. He and the other Mirror Images, all of whom share equal partnership in their new show-business venture, will perform at 9 p.m. Monday, April 18, at the Clawson Lounge and Supper Club at 14 Mile and Rochester roads in Clawson. Cover charge is \$5, and reservations are recommended.

Chukalas, 44, who is Greek, bears an uncanny resemblance to Robert Blake, 49, who is Italian. Not only does he look like the rough-hewn movie actor, he talks like him naturally and even moves like him.

Having "the same mannerisms" is how Chukalas describes it. That's what makes a Mirror Image special — more than just a facial or body-type resemblance.

"MY GIRLFRIEND thought I looked like him," Chukalas said, describing how he got his start as "Baretta." She applied for a ticket to the WKYC-TV show, "Kelley & Company," which was holding a celebrity look-alike contest last year.

Two hundred ordinary people resembling the famous arrived at the TV studio in Southfield, to compete. Chukalas was one of the 12 picked from the audience to go on the show.

Afterward, Chukalas and some of the finalists received invitations from a California-based producer and a metro-Detroit modeling agency to make special appearances.

Up to now, their pay has ranged "from nothing to \$30 apiece," Chukalas said. Not long ago, the group appeared in a show at Center Stage in Canton. "We did that for nothing," he said.

Newly organized and managing themselves, they hope to make their uncanny resemblances pay off.

AT THE Birmingham office of the Observer & Eccentric, Chukalas pulled out a scrapbook with clippings about the Celebrity Clones, who have evolved into the Mirror Images.

Among the others are Geryl Brandt of Southfield, a homemaker, who looks like blonde glamour girl/comedienne Suzanne Sommers; Ken Ingle of Plymouth, a truck driver whom you'd swear was really singing superstar Neil Diamond and Doni Donlon of Plymouth, a homemaker with the madcap styling of Phyllis Diller.

Schoolteacher Marlene Lloyd of Plymouth is not yet a Mirror Image, but she, too, will appear in the show at the Clawson club. Lloyd and beautiful Linda Evans of "Dynasty" are look-alikes.

The Mirror Images also are Leon Jewell of Utica, an artist at the GM Tech Center, who resembles TV comedy personality Foster Brooks; Robert Paul of East Detroit, an assembly-line worker at the Tank Arsenal in Centerline, with the grin and good looks of Alan Alda; Johnny Williams of Clarkston, a high school algebra and science teacher, whose students get to look at "Tom Selleck" all day and Rosetta Mills of Detroit, a homemaker with the striking appearance of Diana Ross.

Chukalas said people have been comparing him to Robert Blake for 20 years. Blake portrayed the killer in the movie version of Truman Capote's documentary-novel "In Cold Blood."

"HE (BLAKE) had psychiatric treatment for it (the movie). He got into the part so much," Chukalas said. "The Baretta character I like."

Although Chukalas doesn't know exactly how tall Blake is or how much the actor weighs, he figures the celebrity's body type must be similar to his. He is 5-feet-8-inches tall and weighs 155, but because he is muscular and lifts weights, he looks bigger.

Chukalas said he doesn't have any complex about his size. "I'm an influential person. Small people tend to be powerful people. I'm big in my mind."

Wearing a short-sleeved T-shirt, in his "Baretta" character, and with three big tattoos showing on his arms, Chukalas looks as macho as the popular hero.

The tattoos are real, and while Chukalas thinks Blake may have some tattoos now, he's had his body decorations for a long time. Some showgoers have been suspicious of Chukalas' tattoos. "They were scratching me to see if they're real. They thought I put them on just because of Baretta," he said.

Chukalas doesn't always dress informally, and he carries a gun (a cap pistol) just for his Baretta performances. He describes himself as a construction worker but also as "a businessman."

HE OWNS HIS own company, Sparta Building Co. of Troy. He said he's struggling with the business because of the economy, but having flexible hours makes it easier for him to do the show-business sideline.

Raised in Greentown, Chukalas and his friends used to go to the 1st Precinct at 1300 Beaubien, police headquarters in Detroit, to work out and play regularly at the gym. One of his best friends grew up to be on the vice squad.

So, the big-city lifestyle and a policeman's lot are not unfamiliar to Chukalas, which maybe helps him along in his resemblance to the character Baretta that Blake plays.

Women like Baretta, Chukalas said, because "he gets involved. Women associate him with helping someone in trouble. Women say to me, 'I'm in love with Baretta.' They want autographs."

Being Mirror Images can make these unknowns become celebrities in their own right. "Our Tom Selleck is starting to get popular. I saw him and said, 'Hey, you're Johnny Williams!'"

THE LOOK-ALIKES get deprived of their privacy, just like the stars they imitate. You're sitting at a table in a restaurant and "The limelight opens up again. It's good for publicity, but you don't know when to look it up."

"It gets me in trouble with my girlfriend sometimes," Chukalas said, explaining that they may want to have just a quiet moment together.



DEBORAH BOOKER/staff photographer

Construction worker George Chukalas of Troy goes into action, striking a pose like Robert Blake as the TV cop, Baretta. He's one of the

eight Mirror Images who have teamed up to do shows, with skits, songs and dances, in imitation of the famous folk they resemble.



In case you couldn't tell, Geryl Brandt of Southfield looks like Suzanne Sommers, Ken Ingle of Plymouth like Neil Diamond and Doni Donlon of

Plymouth, Phyllis Diller. They're also part of the Mirror Images, who will be performing soon at a Clawson club.

WESTWOOD ONE **W** PRESENTS

WILLIE NELSON

STEREO
CONCERT SIMULCAST

WWW



SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 1983 — 8:00 P.M.

Tune to WWW-FM 106.7 at 7:00 p.m. for a one hour stereo special "WILLIE NELSON AND FAMILY IN CONCERT" to be followed by the simulcast at 8:00 p.m. with **HBO**.

Songs include: "Always On My Mind," "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain," Mama's Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to be Cowboys, "Angel Flying Too Close to the Ground," "On the Road Again," and more from his new album "TOUGHER THAN LEATHER."

2½ HOURS OF WWWWillie — STARTS AT 7:00 P.M.

FREE ADMISSION
THE AD WILL ENTITLE THE BEARER TO ONE FREE ADMISSION
SUNDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY
WHEN A BEHOLDEN (ADULT) IS PURCHASED
OFFER EXPIRES MAY 8, 1983

KEEGO CINEMA
Orchard LA Rd at Cass LA Rd. 1½ Miles West of Telegraph
Call 683-1800

SOPHIE'S CHOICE (r)
Weekdays & Saturday 7:00, 8:30; Sunday 5:30, 8:30, 9:30

TOP ENTERTAINMENT
Wednesday thru Saturday Nights
in our Lounge

BUDDY BUDSON QUARTET
WITH THE INCOMPARABLE
URSULA WALKER
April 6-April 30

HAPPY HOUR 4-7
Featuring
MIKE OGOREK
in the Lounge
8:30-12:30 p.m. Wed.-Thurs.
9-1 a.m. Fri.-Sat.
26855 Greenfield
Southfield, MI
557-0570

Andrea Long's
**ANN ARBOR
SPRING ART FAIR**

DATE:
April 6, 9, 10

TIME:
Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

PLACE:
U of M Track & Tennis Bldg.
Ferry Field on State Street
1-94 Exit State Rd. (north)
U of M \$1.00 Parking on Ferry Field

\$2.00 Admission
(Children under 10 free with adult)
250 Artists and Craftsmen

Hourly Drawings
You do not have to attend
or be present to win

Having Your Wedding Reception at Home?
Celebrate in style with colorful room decorations, cake decorations, and party supplies. You'll find it all at Detroit Popcorn Co., including bulk paper and plastic plates, cups, disposable table covers, and napkins — all in bright, coordinating colors.

FREE BAG OF POPCORN
(with this coupon)

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
WHOLESALE PRICES
12085 TELEGRAPH RD.
REDFORD 48236
531-9200