

# Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



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(OJSD)

## Diverse festival steps up theater

By Ethel Simmons  
staff writer



Judy Collins  
opens summer festival

The Ann Arbor Summer Festival is back for a third year — this season running from Saturday, June 28, to Tuesday, July 22 — and there will be lots more theater, in response to the public's desire.

Festival Administrator Alan Brown, in a visit to the Birmingham office of the Observer & Eccentric, compared the 1984 performing arts festival to the previous two.

"The first year was a multi-arts festival with a wide spectrum of events," he said. "The second year, some cancellations occurred, mostly theater. We wound up with mostly a music festival."

Brown, who was raised in Birmingham and studied music and business at the University of Michigan, has been with the festival since its inception. The previous two years he was responsible for activities at the Top of the Park, adjacent to the Power Center, which offers food and free live entertainment and movies during the festival.

"HE DESCRIBED this year's events as 'a lighter program. We have virtually no classical music this year.'"

Brown said that for the first two years, other organizations financed

attractions. "This year for the first year, the Ann Arbor Summer Festival is paying for the attractions. We wound up with a lighter program, more diverse program."

The first year of the festival was very successful, he said, and the second year, was less successful. "Ticket sales were the same both years. They totaled \$150,000 each year."

Projecting sales for his year, he said, "If we sold out, we would sell \$350,000 in tickets. We hope to break even."

This is the first season tickets are being handled by the Ticket World system (phone 763-TKTH). In previous years, "tickets were handled manually at the Power Center box office, which was not as accessible as it needed to be," Brown said.

French mime Marcel Marceau, who appeared at the first two festivals, will be back again this year. He will give two performances and also hold classes.

"HE'S PROBABLY the strongest identity we have for our festival," Brown said. "We hope he will make Ann Arbor the permanent home of his mime school outside of Paris."

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## 'Give 'em Hell' Kevin McCarthy plays Truman

By Ethel Simmons  
staff writer

THE VOICE WAS that of Kevin McCarthy, cheerfully answering the phone from his home in Los Angeles one afternoon last week.

The actor was obviously in good spirits — "You've called at a perfect time" — as he talked willingly about his role as Harry Truman in the one-man show "Give 'em Hell, Harry."

McCarthy, whose credits include stage, screen and television, is bringing "Give 'em Hell, Harry" to the Ann Arbor Summer Festival for one performance, at 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, in the Power Center. The noted actor has been doing the show for about eight years, playing in 47, he said.

This will be the first time for the show in the metropolitan Detroit area, although McCarthy has done the Truman portrayal in East Lansing, Sturgis and Saginaw.

"I DO TRUMAN when it's feasible," he said. "I did a TV series for a while — and I could slip away — and films. I did 65-70 performances in 1984 of Truman, on the centennial of his birthday. I did work on the Broadway stage then. It's a great thing to have that man nearby."

The actor said Margaret Truman saw a performance he did as Truman about two and a half years ago. "She was so full of praise for what I did, she gave me a quote for the flyer: 'Kevin McCarthy is superb as my father in 'Give 'em Hell, Harry.'"

McCarthy isn't the first actor to appear in this particular one-man

show. "It was first done by James Whitmore 10 years ago. He walked away from it."

McCarthy said Whitmore did the role on stage, but after Whitmore recorded it in Seattle for a film performance, which was shown as a feature film, he no longer had any interest in doing the role.

"Another actor tried to take over the road tour after the film, but he wasn't too successful," McCarthy said.

The author, Samuel Gallo, suggested McCarthy might like to play the role. Although the performer doesn't bear a physical resemblance to Truman, and is more a leading-man type than a character actor, the author told him, "You'll do just fine."

WHAT DOES the handsome, strong-featured McCarthy do to make himself look like Truman? "I don't do anything," he said. "I comb my hair on the left hand side of my head. I wear rimmed spectacles and blousy, baggy suits of the era. I wear a Stetson of the type Harry used. I go up and down the aisles with a cane. I try to get near to him without trying to impersonate him. I don't wear any paint or powder."

McCarthy said he admires Truman for his candor, his humility, his modesty and his courage.

"The qualities of this man are just so attractive. As he said, 'I am a one-man lobby for the people.'"

Doing the show is a hard job, McCarthy said. "You stand up on the stage for two hours. I work with a stage crew four or five hours and go on. And I don't know if the cues will work."

The actors sends ahead a pro-



*'I try to get near to him without trying to impersonate him. I don't wear any paint or powder.'*

— Actor Kevin McCarthy

pectus to the theater, listing the things he wants, which include a desk, a hole of hay, a lawnmower and a platform for a whistle-stop train, to name just a few. "I tell them what I need... a pool of light in the Oval Office."

The play starts in the Executive Office. "It opens with a letter to Margaret," McCarthy said. "He strides to the footlights and tells what it's like to become president."

To illustrate, the actor quoted Truman saying, "Hell, I can't compare myself to Roosevelt or Churchill!"

McCarthy said the play rambles around to when Truman first started out. He got into politics after the depression of 1922. "He was a

hardheaded guy and found himself running for country judge."

During the show, McCarthy as Truman talks about the conflict with MacArthur, the dropping of the atomic bomb, and meeting Stalin and Churchill at Potsdam. Then there's the episode where the president is out in his shirt-sleeves cutting his lawn on Sunday morning, and scandalizes the neighborhood.

McCarthy described Truman as a "fleshy, pragmatic at times, funny and salty kind of guy."

The actor and his wife, Catherine Crane McCarthy, have lived in their Los Angeles home for the last five years. He said they're really New Yorkers but stay in L.A. because of the family life with their children.

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