raday, October 21, 1982 O&E

Brian Keith looks forward to new role

CTOR BRIAN KEITH pulled open the cupboard does behind the desk of Falher TimFarley, the character he portays in the play "Mass Appeal." As he loked into the cupboard, he explained the sudience the vestments he would flid there, and change into, during the above.

the there, and change into, during the slow.

Then he moved about the stage at the Bijmingham Theatre, poking into still made hidding places where other surprise would be found.

The burly star settled into a chair behind, a table, continuing to talk about the show in which he will play a wise, older priest whose patience is tried by an idealistic young seminarian.

A comedy hit still playing on Broadway, 'Mass Appeal' co-turn Bill Davis, who also wrote the play and will direct the Birmingham of the stretch of the successful TV-comedy series "Family Affair.")

BERMINGHAM THEATRE problems.

BIRMINGHAM THEATRE previews begin Friday-Sunday with regular per-formances the following

BIRMINGHAM THEATRE previews begin Friday-Sunday with regular performances the following week. Playdates bontinue through Nov. 21.
"We're quick-change artists, actors, monologists, stagehands and propmen," Kelth said, explaining how the two east members would be busy not only performing their roles but change of the said, explaining how the two east members would be busy not only performing their loss but change in the said, and the said of the sa

casulaness.

The state of the s

HIS CAREER has spanned the stage (he was born in a trunk, he said, the child of theatrical parents who starred on Broadway), movies, radio and tele-vision making Keith's name and face familiar to a variety of audiences.

'We're quick-change artists, actors, monologists, stagehands and prop

– Actor Brian Keith starring in 'Mass Appeal'

Keith recalled acting on stage as a child. "I did a little and I dido't like it," be said with a smile. Paramount Studios was in New York then, and he got his first movie role in "The Pled Piper of Malone." Movie scaing didn't appeal to him then, either. "I just hated it," he said. The intensity of the bright kielg lights was one of the things that drove him to distraction.

was one of the displant was the distraction.

After high school he went into the Marine Corps. "After five years of that, World War II was over, and I was faced with making a living."

"I was very lucky, I fell over that first job," he said about a summer tour of a play called "Junior Miss." Kelth then toured in "The Male Animal," playing Wally, the young football players.

"I WAS IN A LOT of flops. I worked in movies that happened to be shot in the New York area," he sald, "There was no TV yet." He worked as an oxtra and did stutus. He mentioned the old Jam Handy Organization in Detroit, remembering some industrial films he appeared in.

He did recordings of children's sto-ries and played on radio for "Theater Guild of the Air." "You could play two or three parts and get paid for each one," Ketth said.

one," Keith sald.

The first stage hit he appeared in was "Mr. Roberts" in 1947 in New York. It played Detroit's Cass Theatre in 1948. "I stayed with it three years," Keith said.

After seven years of theater, he went to the West Coast to do movies and then live television. With his experience as a stago actor, live television was a snap. As for his film career, "the movies just

kept coming."

Kelth didn't do theater again until
1979, he said, when he was offered the
road company of "Da." He turned that
down because he didn't want to tour

but later played the starring role for six months in New York. "I had a great time," he said.
"Then, I did a whole bunch more movies," he said. Of his film roles, Keith said the one he enjoyed most was "The Wind and the Lion," in which he played Teddy Rocsevelt and Sean Connery played an Arab sheik.

"PLAYING TEDDY Roosevelt was wonderful. He was such a character. Oddly, with just glasses and a wig — I grew a mustache — I didn't have to do anything more to look just like pictures of him."

Keith propped his boot on the deak as he philosophized about his movie roles. "Making a living, you still come owith a lot of trab!" He said that both Montgomery Clitt and Marion Brando, hig stars whom he admired, made some bad films along with only a few good ones. "It's 90 percent pick and shovel."

cent pick and shovel."

Even the bad stuff can be fun though.
"I've done a lot of outdoor westerns —
junk — and had a good time doing it,"
he said.
From 1965-70, Keith starred on the
TV-sitcom "Family Affair." He was coproducer of the show which is still
being seen in reruns. "Thank God, I
own part of it," he said.
In 1972-73, the actor did a TV series
in Hawall, with his real-life family,
called "The Little People." He played a
pediatrician and his wife Victoria
played a nurse. "It was a good show but
things were changing," he said.
Shows like "Maude" and "Archie
Bunker" took over, Comedy got to be
"a bunch of insults."

After living in Hawaii for 11 years, the Kelths have moved to Los Angeles. They have a 12- and a 14-year-old still living at home. A daughter, 21, is a professional dancer working with the Philadelphia Ballet.



Brian Keith, at the Birmingham Theatre, said of the play "Mass Appeal," "it's not necessarily relig-ious. It's about truth, love. We could be in the mili-

. It's handled with a lot of fun. It's really a

auditions

Closed auditions for singers and dancers will be held in early November for Metropolitan Reportory Company's upcoming winter and spring musical shows.

Performers interested in auditioning may send resumes and head shots, along with indexes and pione numbers, to Metropolitan Repertory Company, P.O. Bor 486, Royal Oak 48088. Auditors will be held by appointment only. Prepared songs or other material is

an audition appointment.
Using two actor-singers, this hour-long revue has 17 songs and no dia-logue. It is a lighthearted drama about single New Yorkers spending a lonely Saturday night in their modest apart-ments. He lives above her and they in-teract only in each other's fantasics.



INFLATION FIGHTERS Shalea Inn 8761 per person Fenturing Petit Frog Legs (All you can eat) served with: Cheese Crock and Crackers, Soup Salad, French Fries, Roll and Butter.

SHALEA INN & MEADOWBROOK Dine at the Shales Inn any Monday or Tuesday (Inflation Fighter Nights) and receive 50% off each ticket to Mea-dowbrook's Preview Performance of

"THE ROYAL FAMILY" (a riotous comedy of a famous family)
by
George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber

Wednesday, November 3rd Curtain Time 8:30 pm

TWO LOCATIONS
JEN ROAD GRAND BLANC
St Ophite R4 Just off 1-75 call 3315 AUBRIN ROAD
Briven Atama & Organia

852-3410

OPEN FOR LUNCH AT 11 a.m. MON. THRU FRL



Autumn refreshments from the Cider Mill throughout October.

☆ Fall Chores and Food Preparation in Edison and Saltbox houses.

** "The Workers World" exhibit, exclusive local showing in the Museum, Oct. 2 through mid-Nov.

*The Bat" presented Friday and Saturday even-ings live in the Museum Theater, starting Oct. 8.

☆ Family Halloween Jam-boree—Fun for the whole family. Greenfield Village, 6:00-10:00 p.m. Advance reservation required. Oct. 29 & 30, 1982.

☆ Clareno and Canto— Henry & Victoria Meredith perform music for voice and trumpet. Museum Theater, 8:00 p.m. Nov. 20.

Don't miss Eagle Tavern for a memorable meal. Open daily with tavern fare from another time.

THERE'S STILL MORE... Year-round free admission to both Museum and Village. 10% discount on distinctive glifs. (Your savings holdy day glip purchases at a.e. (Noold pay for your aembership). IF YOU BUY A \$50.00 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Free subscription to the Herald magazine.

Free Members' Outing— For the first time go behind the scenes in storage,

YOUR GREAT FALL ORDER FORM

AME	ATIUREAS		
	STATE	ZIP.	H
		C DOMAN INST	TUTES

ENCLOSED IN MY CITELS (MADE PAY)

PLEASE BILL MC VINA MADE PAY

HENRY FORD MUSEUM ***. and GREENFIELD VILLAGE



