

T.J. Reddy, Michael Rigsby: Poet's Corner at the Artschool

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The Artschool of Carrboro will host a reading of original works by two North Carolina poets, T.J. Reddy and Michael Rigsby, tonight at 8 p.m. at the Artschool. There is no admission charge.

For T.J. Reddy, whom Amnesty International has named a "prisoner of conscience," freedom is both a political and artistic theme. As a poet he is concerned with the direction and purpose

Reddy views poetry as a performing art. an instrument of spontaneity, whose purpose, like that of jazz, is "to point, to illustrate sound." Poetry, he feels, should maintain "the indigenous characteristics, like sermons, spirituals, the blues, hand jive, the body as an instrument." All this, he points out, is "part of an aesthetic with its roots in an Afro-American heritage."

Reddy's commitment to the arts is strong. He has helped coordinate Afro Arts Festivals in Charlotte, and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Charlotte Community Broadcasting Foundation and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Afro-American Cultural

Reddy's poems have appeared in Red Clay Reader. A Galaxy of Black Writers. Hyperion, and Southern Poetry Review, and in 1964 he published Less Than a Score, But a

A native of Georgia, Michael Rigsby writes poetry that reflects his Appalachian roots and his love of the mountain people.

One thing I don't like is the way hillbillies and red-necks are portrayed," he says. "Mountain people aren't stupid like that. They aren't degenerates the way James Dickey makes them look

Like the people he celebrates, Rigsby is shrewd, plainspoken and not afraid of manual labor. He uses his poetry wryly to point out what is wrong with the world. Humor is the key, "he says, "to be able to laugh at ourselves but also to be able to see that something is seriously wrong.

There is a sardonic edge to his vision, as he notes in one poem:

"if this mess in America was done on purpose just wait until we have an accident."

Rigsby has published four books of poetry-Milky Way Poems. Spirit Happy. What's a Nice Hillbilly Like You . . . and Shotgun



Both T.J. Reddy and Michael Rigsby were recently featured on WUNC's "New Voices," a radio series porduced by Soundscape, Inc., which examines the works and views of young North Carolina

having the time of their lives these summer days with the Community Youth Theatre at the Cultural Arts Center on the Chapel Hill High School campus. The boys and girls, ranging in age from

Several Orange County youths are

9 through 14, are developing their potential for the stage under several highly skilled teachers of drama, speech, music and dance.

On Friday and Saturday, July 14-15, the young actors and musicians will present their talents on stage in two one-act musicals, "Aesops Falables" and "Half Pint Windom Rides West."

Curtain time is 8 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Saturday. Admission is \$1.50 for adults and .75 for children. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Betty Setzer is director of the summer theatre program, now in its secondyear. She has taught at UNC-CH and North Carolina Central University and has starred in many Carolina Playmaker productions and with the Durham Theatre Guild June Burbage, who earned her master's in piano performance at UNC-CH, is the music director. Patricia Yesulaitis and Pat Hurley are teaching creative active and speech. Mrs. Yesulaitis has taught speech for the past seven years at Elon College. Hurley, a drama graduate of UNC-CH, has worked in summer stock, off-Broadway and regional theatre.

Costuming, one of the youth theatre's most popular classes, is being taught by Barbara Hannah, a UNC-CH drama graduate. Linda Sobsy is the dance movement director and choreographer. and Mimi Herman is the teenage

volunteer stage manager.

Community Youth Theatre

B. J. Campbell, acting president of Community Youth Theatre, Inc., said any school child in Orange County can try out for the summer theater program. Auditions are held each year in Chapel Hill and Hillsborough. Over 100 tried out last year but only 40 could be handled this year. No experience is necessary, but many come with previous experience in local productions and are "growing" with the Community Youth Theatre summer

The program is supported by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, the Town of Chapel Hill, North Carolina Arts Council and the Grass Roots Arts

Program.



