

# Film star inspiration for actor-playwright



Henry Hoffman

By KAREN ROSEN  
Staff Writer

When Henry Hoffman was 4-years-old, he saw *Captain Jack Castille* starring Tyrone Power at a drive-in theater. He never forgot it.

"Power had a zest for life and a love of glamour," Hoffman, 39, said. Yet Power died at age 44 from alcoholism, and has more than a name in common with Jamie Tyrone, Hoffman's character in *A Moon for the Misbegotten*. The Eugene O'Neill play runs through Sunday in Playmakers Theatre.

Jamie Tyrone, a self-destructing actor who wants to die after cleansing his conscience, is based on O'Neill's older brother. O'Neill wrote the play as a tribute to him.

For the past three years, Hoffman has been writing a play as a tribute to Power. "It's really about me," Hoffman said. "Tyrone Power is the context, but it's about my experiences and the life of an actor."

Hoffman said he believed a lack of recognition killed

Power. And Hoffman had definite ideas about where he wanted that recognition to come from in his own career.

"When I was a kid, I thought, 'If Laurence Olivier could see me and acknowledge me, that would be enough,'" Hoffman said.

It wasn't a farfetched notion, since Olivier saw Hoffman perform in *The Duchess of Malfi* in 1976. "He came backstage and told me that I should continue acting, that I had a future," Hoffman said. "That was absolutely the high point of my life. It's like the Pope saying, 'You're great.'"

Sibling rivalry with his identical twin brother first spurred Hoffman to try the theatre. "I saw him act, and then thought, 'I can do that,'" Hoffman said.

Hoffman has been a professional actor for 12 years and, as a resident with the Playmakers Repertory Company, he teaches acting classes for majors and non-majors. "When they declare that they want to act, I tell them, 'Go and do it,' and give them many avenues. But there is no yellow brick road," he said.

Hoffman teaches his classes such alternatives to act-

ing as mind expansion and meditation, drawing on his experiences with California Consciousness, EST and primal scream therapy.

His students watched him practice what he preached as he developed his portrayal of Jamie Tyrone. But Hoffman actually had been working on the part for more than nine months.

He directed the acclaimed Los Angeles revival of the play last year, starring two of his friends, Salome Jens and Mitchell Ryan.

"Directing that play changed me forever," Hoffman said. "Before, I wanted my signature on the show, my 'HH' in the corner. But O'Neill directs that play. I had to be somebody the actors can rely on and be inspired by."

After he finishes his three-hour stint on stage, Hoffman said that he feels naked and it takes three or four hours to unwind. "Acting does incredible psychological damage," he said. "You have to be a very healthy person to do acting because of what comes up for you."

In 1976, Hoffman was working 11 months out of the

year, and had appeared on several television shows including *Rhoda*, *Eight is Enough* and *Charlie's Angels*, but he didn't think he was healthy enough anymore. He turned to directing and teaching, and only returned to the boards last year in PRC's *Angel Street* as Inspector Rough.

Hoffman now wants a chance to direct films. "I will not be satisfied until I get in the highest aristocracy of art," he said. "There's absolutely no going back to the power of film after *E.T.*"

Hoffman said film portrays what goes on in people's minds, especially since people dream in frames, and theatre eventually will be phased out. "It's important to dress up and participate in a sense of community," Hoffman said of the benefits of theatre. "But it's fairly inefficient in terms of changing people's lives."

"After you've done a stage performance, it's gone, it's dead. But I can reach in a drawer and pull out a Betamax," he said. "The audience was transformed after *E.T.* I saw people's faces as they came out. I said, 'That's what I want to do.'"

## Clef Hangers' popularity gains strength; campus concerts, tours, promote group

By MONT ROGERS  
Staff Writer

If you were walking through the Pit this week and heard barbershop quartet music, you were listening to the Clef Hangers, who are performing tonight in Memorial Hall at 8.

The Clef Hangers are in their sixth year at UNC. They are one of the few a capella groups in the South, and the first at UNC. Their sister group, the Loreleis, formed only last year.

After becoming popular at UNC, the Clef Hangers went on tours to parts of North Carolina, the Northeast and New Orleans. The success of these tours and the difficulties of booking subsequent tours to places where they were not known led them to cut an album, *Once in a Blue Moon*.

The songs on the album are a mix of traditional barbershop music and the newer, more contemporary styles like beach music. The album also features rock, like the medley of Elvis Presley songs.

*Moon* was scheduled to be released at the beginning of this semester, but will not be released until mid-December. The album is dedicated to Barry Saunders, the group's founder.

The Clefs regard this album as a milestone for the group and

say that their popularity is growing. "More people know about us," Mark Jacobson, a group member, said.

Besides cutting albums and going on tour, the Clef Hangers practice two to three hours each week. They have performed at various banquets and have sung at the chancellor's luncheons before each football game.

In preparation for their concert, the Clefs have practiced three hours a day this week.

"The first set of the concert is eight to nine songs of new stuff, things we've never sung. The next set is cut from the album and old favorites," Wylie Lowery, a group member, said.

The new songs include a Drifters tune and "Stormy Weather." The old favorites are "Coney Island Baby" and "Shame and Scandal."

The Clef Hangers may work hard preparing for concerts, but they know how to let off steam. "It all boiled down to this — after an hour of practice we were bored, and we knew we couldn't get any work done, so we decided to break the monotony of the Undergraduate Library. Nobody studies there anyway," Jacobson said. The Clefs broke into an impromptu concert — a welcome break from the Midterm Frenzies.

## CAMPUS CALENDAR

Compiled by Janet Olson

Public service announcements must be turned into the box outside DTH offices in the Carolina Union by 1 p.m. if they are to run the next day. Only announcements from University-recognized and campus organizations will be printed. All announcements must be limited to 25 words and can only run for two days.

### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Scott Residence College presents "Control Group" at Pegasus. All SRC residents may pay \$1.30 in advance or \$3 at the door. Tickets are available at the Parker and Whitehead desks.

Chimes, presents Dr. Jeffrey Elliot, the foremost interviewer in the sci-fi field at 7:30 p.m. in the Carolina Union. Check the Union schedule for the room number.

O'Chale de Boin-Pape, the Portuguese conversation group, meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month at 4 p.m. at Molly Maguire's.

The Association of Business Students' Career Planning Committee will meet at 4 p.m. in G-9 New Carroll Hall.

Campus Christian Fellowship will hold its weekly Bible study at 7 p.m. in the Carolina Union. Check at the Union Desk for the room number or call 942-8952 for information.

The Order of the Ginkgo is holding its fall party to celebrate the falling of the ginkgo tree leaves at 3 p.m. in front of New West. Everyone is welcome.

Interviewing Workshop, sponsored by the Office of Career Planning and Placement Services will be held at 3:30 p.m. in 209 Hanes Hall.

The Baptist Student Union program will feature a talk on missions by Dr. James Y. Greene at 5:45 p.m. at the Baptist Student Union, 203 Battle Lane.

The AFRIC and NROTC will participate in a Veterans Day ceremony in the quadrangle between South Building and Wilson Library at 3:30 p.m. The public is invited.

A potluck dinner and discussion with West German students and Dr. Griffiths will be sponsored by the Global Issues/International Affairs Committee at 6 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation.

The FCA will sponsor a speech by Pete Kumega at 8:30 p.m. in the Carolina Union.

"Generations of Resistance," a film on black apartheid, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in 106 Carroll Hall. Admission is free and a discussion will follow.

Learn how to skydive. Join the Parachute Club. There will be a club meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Carolina Union.

There will be a Time Management workshop at 7 p.m. for undergraduates only. Call the Counseling Center, 962-2175, to sign up.

A Campus Y general membership meeting will be held at 4 p.m. in Gerrard Hall. All committee members and others connected with the Y are encouraged to attend.

### COMING EVENTS

Geography undergrads and grads: Come to a party at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Village Green Clubhouse. A map and details are available in the office.

Test Anxiety Group starts Tuesday at the Student Development and Counseling Center. Call 962-2175 for more information.

The North Carolina Student Rural Health Coalition is sponsoring a benefit square dance at 9 p.m. Saturday, featuring the Red Rose Flyers and the Apple Chill Cloggers.

Don't forget to sign up early for the Campus Y's Footballs and Race on Sunday. Every entrant receives a T-shirt. Prizes will be given. Call the Y for more information.

The Prague Symphony Orchestra will perform at 8 p.m. Sunday in Memorial Hall. All seats are reserved. Individual tickets are on sale at the Union Box Office.

Moravian Residence College presents "Christmas Break," a comedy in two acts. The play deals with college relationships and life choices. The play will show Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Admission is \$1.

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