

The Man Who Would Be A Clown



The New York Clown Conspiracy

"Be a Clown," Judy Garland and Gene Kelly sang commandingly in a movie musical. Joe Killian obeyed, and his mother in Michigan is still asking why he doesn't go out and get a grow-up's job.

But in Duplin County for the first major offering in the Twelve Days of Christmas celebration in Kenansville, residents will be glad that Killian became a clown. Killian found his partner Michael Zerphy, and didn't do as his mother had wished!

As the first offering of evening entertainment in the Twelve Days of Christmas series, Killian and Zerphy will perform on Monday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kenansville Elementary School. The Duplin County Arts Council is co-sponsoring the performance and the admission is free.

At 28, Killian, who has been a professional clown for six years, won a Parks and Recreation, Department county audition last spring and wound up with summer stints in more than 50 local parks, day camps and schools. His one-man show, "Friend or Fool," was conceived to remove the clown from the realm of the stereotype - "the unfortunate and grotesque circus association, with gaudy clothes," as Killian puts it - and transport him onto a simple, identifiable Everyman level: "The contemporary person - your uncle or the guy down the

block - bumbling through life."

Killian, a self-described clown and mime, is, as well, intent on creating new levels for the latter category; that is, to change and expand it, from what he calls "the white-faced silent character tradition" to the performer who actually creates a different language. He terms it "gibberish," but defines it as language all the same.

In his 45-minute show, Killian stresses the participatory and celebratory nature of clowning. "When the audience sees me trying to put on my jacket every which way but the correct way, they really want to help," he said. "When I've achieved it, they've achieved it too, met a new character, learned a new way of communication (through gibberish) and experienced the silliness in themselves."

The coat routine is a solo version of the duet that Killian developed with his partner in clowning, Michael Zerphy, that includes juggling with a member of the audience who, in the process, winds up becoming a clown, too.

Joe Killian and Michael Zerphy began performing together in 1978. They have performed in a diverse range of settings - elementary schools, colleges, theatres, parks, hospitals and special events. From 1978-82, they were featured artists-in-residence throughout upstate New York, a project funded by the N.Y. State Division of Youth. In 1980, Joe and Michael participated in the Grand Rapids, Mich. Artists-in-Education program touring their show to 60 schools. This was sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. This year they were featured at the Indianapolis Children's Museum, Summerfun Theater at

Montclair State College, Citicorp, and a month-long residency for the N.C. State Department of Education. Joe and Michael both enjoy traveling, story-telling and Mexican food!

In an Aug. 14 article featured in the New York Times, Alvin Klein quotes Killian as saying, "This Christmas, philosophers, stand back! And Duplin County, welcome to the world of the clown."

Joe Killian and Michael Zerphy will share a Christmas with special parts written for Duplin County. They will share their clowns' world filled with joy, tenderness and laughter. . . where each day holds the

promise of a look at things familiar - and especially, at ourselves."

The clown is the outcast who is brought in, like the court jester. He turns things around and asks that audi-

ences look at an ordinary thing with different eyes, until it becomes magical. Discovery and aliveness are what it's all about. For more, you'll have to ask a philosopher."

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Emery Honored For Service At National Spinning

National Spinning Co., announced that Bob Emery, department head in the company's Warsaw plant, has recently been recognized for 25 years of service with the company.

Emery, who started with NS in 1958 in the company's Washington plant, has worked in Warsaw and been a resident of Duplin County for the past 18 years. He is presently responsible for several departments.

"We are pleased to make



Bob Emery

this recognition of Bob's service with the company," said W.T. Huddleston, Duplin County vice president. "Bob is a valuable part of our management team and always contributes highly to our growth and development here at the Warsaw plant."

Emery is married to the former Fannie Waddell of Bath. They have two daughters, Mrs. William E. Carter Jr. of Warsaw and Teresa Emery of Wilmington.

Mime Sandwiched In At Extension Building

County workers are invited to "brown bag" their sandwiches as the Duplin County Arts Council invites them to come together for lunchtime entertainment on Monday, Dec. 12. The lunchtime site will be the Agricultural Extension Building Auditorium.

The Arts Council will provide drinks and desserts. Entertainment will be The Clown's Christmas with a brief sneak preview of the program they will offer that evening in a community performance.

The two clowns are from New York City and have recently been touring in North Carolina.

Jean Wenner, director of the Onslow County Arts Council of Jacksonville, said, "These two were the best performers who have come to Onslow County in a long time."

The DCAC invites you to join a shared and funny time together.



The question mark ("??") comes from the first and last letters of the Latin word for question: *quaestio*.

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Kenansville Elementary Observed American Education Week

During the week of Nov. 13-18, the teachers and staff of Kenansville Elementary observed American Education Week. The week began with the signing of a proclamation by Mayor Don Suttles. Each staff member wore a special pin every day emphasizing "Education as the Key to America's Future."

The classrooms wrote special essays, poems and drawings of teachers of their choice.

Refreshments were provided by the PTO, lunchroom staff, and Pepsi. The area businesses participated in drawings to honor the staff with special gifts. Participating were Theresa's, Ste-

phens Hardware, Fast Fare, Quinn's Variety, Kenansville Drug, Holmes Jewelry, Jackson's IGA, NCNB, UCB, B&K Grill, Brown's Grocery, Miller Cleaners, Tastee Freeze, and Booth Insurance Co.

The staff wishes to thank all who helped make the week a successful one.

You and Your Car

Tips from the Mobil Auto Tech Group

Friendly Packaging
A service station can give you expert and convenient help on many car items that should be checked periodically. Still, more and more motorists—including women—are do-it-yourselfers, most commonly adding or changing oil.

A boon for you backyard mechanics is a new consumer-friendly idea in packaging for motor oil and other car fluids: Corrosion-free plastic. Bottle spouts let you pour without the bother of a funnel. If you don't need all the oil, you screw the cap back on to keep out dirt.

Other tips for carefree do-it-yourselfing:
• Don't run the engine in enclosed spaces. • Rings can snag your fingers. • Disconnect the battery ground (negative terminal) when working on fuel or electrical systems. • Park on level ground, block the wheels, hand brake on, manual transmission in reverse, automatic transmission in park. • Don't work under a car propped up on makeshift stands.

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