

see
Kendall
Fred
1965-66
file

STRIKE at the WIND!

submitted by
Shawn Smith



"Strike at the Wind!" the professional, outdoor drama about the Lumbee Indians folk hero Henry Berry Lowry, has just completed its eighth season at The Lakeside Theater in Pembroke, N.C. Their summer's production was directed by Shawn Smith, Associate Professor of Theater at Elizabeth City State University, and feature two ECSU theater students, Kenneth L. Lanier and David Raper, in major positions with the company. All three members of the Viking family were instrumental in making the 1983 production of the drama an outstanding success.

One newspaper critic said of the play, "I've seen it every year since it first opened, and this is the best one yet." It is a spectacular, newly polished production." As director, Smith was given much credit for the overall success of "Strike at the Wind." According to the Robesonian reporter, Smith's "... innovations in the production brought forth a very positive response from the audience."

Another theater critic said that the drama was "remarkably polished, with all the elements needed to make a successful show—good acting, good directing, good lighting."

Kenny Lanier served as assistant stage manager for "Strike at the Wind!" and also performed the role of George Applewhite, a member of the Lowrie gang who fought for human rights during the post Civil War reconstruction period in Robeson County. "I not only learned a lot about professional Theater during the summer," says Kenny, "I also learned a great deal about the Lumbee Indians. They are great people to work with."

Kenny was production stage manager last year for the ECSU University Players' "Bus Stop" and "The Hot L Baltimore," in which he also acted a major role. A junior from Elizabethtown, N.C., Kenny has also directed Ed Bullin's "The Corner" and Langston Hughes' "Soul Gone Home" for the University Players.

David Raper designed the lighting for "Strike at the Wind." David has also worked with "The Lost Colony," as an actor and stuntman. His many talents have carried him to Broadway where he served as a Costume Designer of the production of "The Father and the Wedding" In his current position as Technical Director of the Elizabeth City State University theater program David designed sets and lights for the "The Hot L Baltimore" and "Bus Stop," (in which he also acted the role of Will Masters). He recently directed Tennessee Williams' "Hello from Bertha." David has been a professional craftsman and sculptor for twenty years. This is his first year with "Strike at the Wind."

The drama written by Rudolph Umberger, a professor of Theater at North Carolina Central University, is one of the major outdoor dramas in the nation and has been seen by more than half a million Theater goers.



**W. Shawn Smith,
Director**



**C. David Raper,
Technical Director**



**Kenny Lanier,
Assistant Stage
Manager and
character
"Applewhite"**



Kenny Lanier as "Applewhite"

in a scene from the musical

