

# "The Southern Wyeth" N.C. artist prefers native locale

by Ann Greer  
Staff Writer



Bob Timberlake

One of North Carolina's most talented residents at work on a landscape of his rural home state. A specialist in watercolors, Timberlake left a land-development business to become an artist.

A rough wooden cane rests carelessly on the straight-backed chair. Yellow flowers are bunched in a metal coffee pot. A tree makes shadows and patterns on grass and wood. The scene is "Afternoon at the Petrea," a watercolor by one of North Carolina's most talented sons—Bob Timberlake.

Timberlake has been painting full time only four years, but has already established a reputation as a top realist painter. Bob Talbot of the *Detroit Free Press* calls him "the Southern Wyeth."

The connection with Wyeth is more than incidental. Timberlake had always been an admirer of Wyeth. In February, 1969, he visited Wyeth's home in Chadds Ford, Pa. with six of his paintings. It was because of the famous artist's encouragement that Timberlake decided to devote full time to art.

"I still don't know why he agreed to see me," said Timberlake as he sat in the 200-year-old cabin that serves as his studio.

Devoting so much time to painting is a new thing for Timberlake. He has no formal training in art. He graduated in 1959 from UNC with a major in

industrial relations. Then he became involved with a number of family businesses, including bottle gas, land development and construction. Painting had to be squeezed in between family and business duties.

Timberlake's first one-man show was in Winston-Salem. Then in April, 1973, came his exhibit at the Hammer Galleries in New York. For the first time in the galleries' history, all the paintings

reproductions of some of his work. Signed and numbered prints are made in limited supply to preserve quality.

The value of Timberlake's paintings and prints is increasing rapidly. Prints of his first reproduced painting have increased from \$35 to \$800. The original cost was only \$1000. With his business orientation, Timberlake appreciates the economic aspect of his work.

"Nowadays people tend to be

them into focus, there are always interesting things to be seen."

Timberlake does snow and beach scenes, portraits and composition pieces. In all of them, he tries to capture a moment in the recent or distant past that has caught his attention by its color, shadows or content.

Though the business of painting frequently takes him to Paris and New York, Timberlake remains a down home sort of person. He gives people their money back if they're not satisfied. His easel is a card table, and a fishing box holds his paints.

"Success hasn't really changed anything," he said. "I don't paint to sell, and I've always thought there must be something wrong because I'm getting so much pleasure out of it."

Timberlake is busy working on his next New York show, which will include 30-50 works. But he is never too busy to notice the little things, like some miniature apples given to him by a neighbor.

And he's never too busy to point out to a visitor a phrase he heard that typifies the feeling he hopes his paintings express: "We will have this moment forever, but never never again..."

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were sold before the opening.

With increasing success came added responsibilities. Timberlake was approached for all kinds of schemes, from fabric designs to reproduction of limited edition furniture.

"You have to pay the piper when you achieve some degree of fame," said Timberlake. "Your life isn't completely your own."

Another time-consuming responsibility is his involvement with

investing in things of physical value, such as land and furniture. I'm glad to see that my paintings are a good investment as well as something nice to look at."

Timberlake works in watercolors and tempera. He has no trouble with subject matter, finding abundant material in his rural N.C. surroundings.

"The problem is picking out one of the 100 things I want to do," he said. "If you take time to look at things and bring

## KALEIDOSCOPE

### Cinema

On Campus

"A Free Woman"—What happens to a modern-day Nora after she leaves her doll's house. The film is West German, has just opened this summer in New York and Washington and was very favorably received. The title is ironic. (Today at 7 and 9:30 p.m., Saturday at 2, 7 and 9:30 p.m., Greenlaw Auditorium, \$1.50, the Alternative Cinema.)

"Shanghai Express"—Grand Hotel on wheels, with Marlene Dietrich and Anna May Wong, excitedly competing for the attentions of all aboard. (Today at 6:30 and 9 p.m., Union Great Hall, free flick.)

"Blonde Venus"—More Dietrich, also directed by Josef von Sternberg, and the seductress plays a cafe singer who must continue her act to earn money for a dying husband. The big number is "Hot Voodoo." In a gorilla suit. (Saturday at 6:30 and 9 p.m., Union Great Hall, free flick.)

"Scarlet Empress"—And still more Marlene, as she tackles the role of Catherine the Great and comes up looking pretty silly, according to contemporary critics. Not the best of the Dietrich-von Sternberg films. (Sunday at 6:30 and 9 p.m., Union Great Hall free flick.)

"Le Corbeau" ("The Raven")—A poison-pen maniac terrorizes a small French town during the Occupation. This 1943 film was the third movie of Henri-Georges Clouzot, who later did "Diabolique" and "The Wages of Fear" and is generally considered an equal of the two classics. (Sunday at 7 and 9:30 p.m., Greenlaw Auditorium, \$1.50 or subscription, Chapel Hill Film Friends.)

"An Evening of Nostalgia"—T.V. shows from the fifties. Features episodes from "The Lone Ranger," "Ozzie and Harriet," "Amos 'n' Andy," "You Bet Your Life," "The Mickey Mouse Club" and Nixon's "Checkers Speech." (Shows at 7 and 9:30 p.m. today, Saturday and Sunday. Today's shows are in Carroll Hall, Saturday and Sunday shows are in Hamilton Hall. \$1.)

Chapel Hill

"Carnal Knowledge"—It was only banned in a small town in Georgia, but the ads are proclaiming "Now you can see it!" as if it's been suppressed everywhere. Mike Nichols directed Jack Nicholson, Ann-Margret, Art Garfunkel and Candice Bergen stunningly, and Jules Feiffer's script is telling and sad. A very good movie, and even better the second time. (Carolina, 2, 3:45, 5:30, 7:15 and 9 p.m., \$2.25.)

"Bananas"—Another wild trip down to the Caribbean with Woody Allen and Howard

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Coselli. This really isn't his best film, although an objective choice would be hard to make—the funniest Allen film seems to be the one you've just seen. Still, "Bananas" is the spottiest, and perhaps the most offbeat. (Plaza 1, 3:05, 5:05, 7:05 & 9:05 p.m., \$2.25.)

"That's Entertainment"—That's 130 minutes of highly enjoyable strolling through movie musical history. (Plaza 2, at 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m., \$2.25.)

"Gone With the Wind"—The greatest epic of all time, and this engagement could be called "Scarlett's Last Stand," since the M-G-M classic has been sold to TV at last. Tara will never look the same. (Plaza 3, 3 and 8 p.m., \$2.25.)

"Teenage Fantasies"—Who says Chapel Hill is anything special? This film took in over \$1,000 at the Varsity boxoffice yesterday and is being held over through the weekend, forcing cancellation of Truffaut's "Day for Night." That's indicative of the whole commercial scene in America; let's face it, the bourgeoisie have no charm at all. (Varsity at 1:20, 3:15, 5:10, 7:05 and 9 p.m., \$2.25.)

Weekend Late Shows

"Little Big Man"—Dustin Hoffman is Jack Crabb, who has an amazing life story which involves him with Custer and Faye Dunaway. (Carolina at 11:30 p.m. today and Saturday, \$2.)

"Brewster McCloud"—A neglected Robert Altman film as chaotic and energetic as "M\*A\*S\*H," but somehow stranger, and people didn't like the idea of Rene Auberjonois flapping his arms and turning into a bird, among other things. (Varsity at 11:15 p.m. today and Saturday, \$1.75.)

"A Man For All Seasons"—A majestic and stately historical drama about Thomas More. Overlong and overrated. (Carolina at 11:30 p.m. Sunday, \$2.)

"The King of Marvin Gardens"—Boring and pretentious. Bob ("Five Easy Pieces") Rafelson bombs out with this story of two brothers—Jack Nicholson and Bruce Dern—who have a reunion in Atlantic City and drive Ellen Burstyn crazy. They ride horses on the beach and talk a lot. (Yorktowne, Saturday at 11:30 p.m., too late for malarky like this. \$2.)

Durham

"The Longest Yard"—A prison story filmed in Georgia State Pen with Burt Reynolds and transplanted cheerleaders. Burt's just playing his charming, witty self, and Hollywood is tailoring movies for him and his entertaining talk-show personality, says Pauline Kael. But is this acting? And are these movies? (Yorktowne at 2:30, 4:45, 7 and 9:15 p.m., \$2.50.)

"Airport 1975"—Who would've thought it? Another extravaganza in the air, with all the

stars who were not quite big enough (and not quite tacky enough) for the first "Airport." Helen Reddy as a nun. Gloria Swanson as a movie queen. Only George Kennedy remains, and the whole thing is so exciting, I just can't wait for "Beyond the Poseidon Adventure." (Carolina.)

"The Chinese Mechanic"—Exactly what you'd expect. (Riverview.)

"Buster and Billie"—Exactly what you wouldn't expect: a well-done, interesting story of rural Georgia, late Forties, the town stud and the town tramp and what happens to them. Jan-Michael Vincent and Joan Goodfellow are the title characters, and reviews have been fairly positive. (Center 2.)

"Carnal Knowledge"—Northgate.

### Night Life

Town Hall—Brice Street Band at 9 p.m. today. Sherman and the Blazers at 9 p.m. Saturday. \$1 cover charge.

Watergate Memorial Tavern—David Gillett at 9:30 p.m. today. David Boggess at 9:30 p.m. Saturday.

### Theatre

Carolina Playmakers' production of Lillian Hellman's "The Little Foxes," directed by Tommy Rezzuto, will be at 8 p.m. today through Sunday in Playmakers Theatre. Tickets, \$2.50, are on sale at the Playmakers Business Office, 102 Graham Memorial, or at Ledbetter-Pickard downtown.

The Lab Theatre presents Genet's "The Maids" at 4 & 8 p.m. today in 06 Graham Memorial. Free tickets may be picked up at the Lab Office on the south mezzanine of Graham Memorial.

Cole Porter's "Anything Goes" at 8:15 p.m. today in B.N. Duke Auditorium at North Carolina Central University in Durham. Tickets, \$1 in advance and \$1.50 at the door. Call 682-2171, ext. 242 for information.

Tickets, \$1.50, are now available at the Union desk for the Soviet Georgian Dancers performing at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31 through Saturday, Nov. 2 in Reynolds Coliseum on the N.C. State campus in

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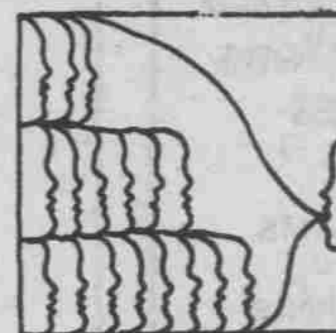
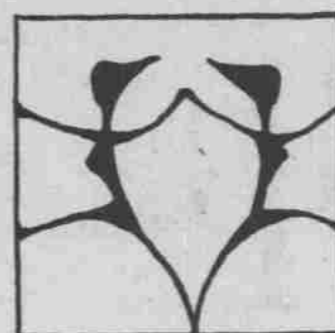
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### Gallery

Raleigh. Tickets, \$2, for the performance of the Claude Kipnis Mime Theatre at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22 in Memorial Hall are now on sale at the Union desk.

"Hello, Dolly," presented by the Raleigh Little Theatre at 8 p.m. today through Sunday. Shows also Monday, Oct. 21 through Sunday, Oct. 27. Call 832-6384, for ticket information.

Durham Theatre Guild presents "Dames at Sea" at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday. Shows also Thursday, Oct. 24 through Saturday, Oct. 26 and Thursday, Oct. 31 through Saturday, Nov. 2. Tickets, \$2.50. Call 682-5519, for reservations.

The Department of Dramatic Art at North Carolina Central University will hold try-outs for its production of "Five on the Black Hand Side" at 2:30 p.m. today and 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21 in B.N. Duke Auditorium in Durham.

### Music

The "Beat State" dance will be from 7:30-11 p.m. today in the Pit. The Royal Kings Band will provide the music.

Violinist Isaac Stern will perform at 8:15 p.m. today in Page Auditorium at Duke University. Tickets are \$7, \$6 and \$5. Call 684-4059 for tickets.

Tickets, \$2, are now available at the Union desk for the Taj Mahal concert at 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2 in Carmichael Auditorium. Tickets, \$2, are now on sale at the Union desk for the Black Heat concert at 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25 in Memorial Auditorium.

John Harding will conduct the UNC Jazz Lab Band in a free performance at 4 p.m. Sunday in Memorial Hall.

Tickets, \$2.50, are available at the Union desk for the Billy Joel concert at 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 31 in Reynolds Coliseum on the N.C. State campus in Raleigh.

### Radio

WDBS, 107.1 FM—"Daily Concert," 10 a.m.-1 p.m., today features the music of Pleyel, Charpentier, Brahms, Mozart and Straube.

WQDR, 94.7 FM—"Album Rock in Stereo."

Oct. 25 at the Art Gallery of Chapel Hill. The Italian Paintings of Harry L. Dalton and the Sculpture of Puccinelli are featured at the Duke University Museum of Art through Tuesday, Nov. 12.

The "Heavy Water" light show comes to Morehead Planetarium at 8 and 10 p.m. today and Saturday. Shows also Friday, Oct. 25 through Sunday, Oct. 27 and Friday, Nov. 1 through Sunday, Nov. 3. There will be no 10 p.m. shows on Sunday, Oct. 27 and Sunday, Nov. 3. Admission is \$2.

Paintings by Jane Mellin can be viewed until Sunday in the North Lobby of the Union. The Faculty Artists Exhibition opens at 3 p.m. Sunday in Ackland Art Center. The show is free to the public and will continue daily except Mondays until Sunday, Nov. 10.

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