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The Hoboken Historical Museum Newsletter

OF BY And FOR Museum Members.

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HOBOKEN FOLLIES APRIL 27, 1990

SHARKY'S, 90 River St. 8:00 PM - 2:30 AM

The liveliest nightspot in Hoboken will be the scene of "Hoboken Follies," an evening of live performers, film, jazz and classical music, that brings back on Friday night, April 27 the heyday of vaudeville, theatre, movies, and concerts to this mile-square city on the Hudson once known as the metropolitan area's center of theatrical entertainment from Barnum to Weber & Fields.

Sponsor of the event is the Hoboken Historical Museum, which is mounting the show as its fourth annual fund-raising endeavor. "It promises to be the biggest and best ever," says nationally-known jazz clarinetist Perry Robinson, Museum Trustee and talent organizer for the one-night event. Describing "Hoboken Follies" as "new-age vaudeville," Robinson has recruited musical and variety performers from among Hoboken's large population of entertainers, ranging from jazz combos to magicians to animal acts.

Site of "Hoboken Follies" will be Sharky's, a newly transformed night-club room at Hoboken's famous Clam Broth House restaurant, 90 River Street, just north of Newark Street in downtown Hoboken, a block from the Erie-Lackawanna and PATH terminals. The room is



"Rajahs" Frankie Fame and Perry Robinson
Photo V.Parrott

one of the brightest lights in Hoboken's remarkably lively night-life, and took on a new look recently with new interior decoration by Hoboken artist Sandy Sobanski and encouragement from Clam Broth House proprietor Arthur Peleaz.

Funds raised by the benefit will go to the support of the city's local historical museum, which mounts annual exhibitions on city history in City Hall and publishes a monthly newsletter and brochures about the colorful community's historic past.

Exclaims the Museum's founder and president, local artist Jim Hans, "This year's fund-raiser is expected to be a real fun-raiser." The bearded museum founder will make a brief appearance on stage, with his "wonder-dog," Lee. What wonders Lee will perform are being kept under wraps.

Among the entertainers says Hans, "will be the Rajahs of Rhythm," featuring clarinetist Perry Robinson, who for many years has been a leader in *Downbeat* music magazine's jazz poll; the "one and only" Frankie Fame, a veteran Dixieland drummer whose career with Pee Wee Russell, Bob Eberly and Ella Fitzgerald reads like a who's who of the popular music world; and young bassist David Grego, who has been performing on the tuba with symphony orchestras and jazz groups around the world and is presently subbing for the Jersey Pops orchestra.

The Rajahs will be the "house"



David Grego



Joan Torino, "The Jersey Tomato"

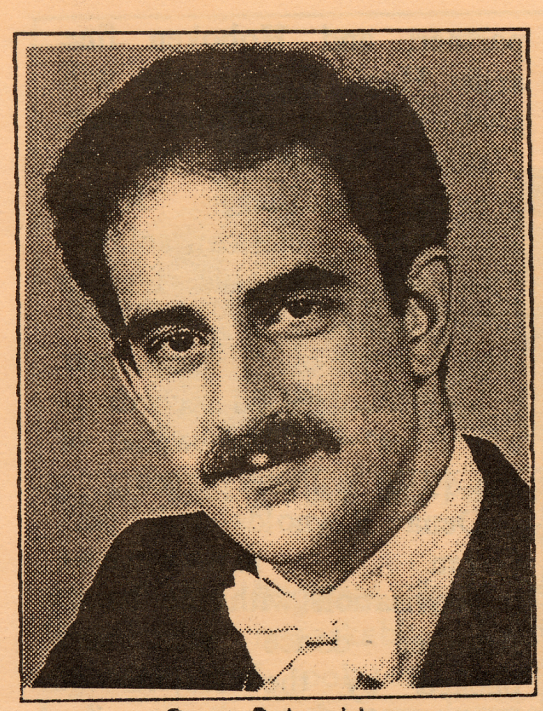
band, Hans adds, backing up various acts throughout the evening, including "Sea-Food Swing," -- songs performed by Lisa and Paul Bellan-Boyer; Lisa and Paul are transplanted Mid-Westerners thriving in Hudson County on art, computer and cultural diversity; Joan Torino, the "Jersey Tomato" who joined the chorus line at the old Hudson Theatre in Union City at the tender age of 15, was in the chorus for ten years and was a featured performer for ten years doing the French can-can and later the "Bubble Dance," billed as "The Bubble Queen." After the Hudson Theatre closed she went on the road for ten years with the Brian and Engels Circuit. The Rajahs will also back Ann O'Brien and her swing partner; and Hoboken fine artist Hugh Kilmer who will give a recital of the poem "Trees," composed by his great-grandfather, Joyce Kilmer, the American soldier-poet who lost his life in World War I.

As part of the Kilmer tribute, two period recordings of "Trees" by "big bands" of the 1930s will be played.

Dena Reynolds will perform a movement improvisation with the band. Another dance act, also backed by the Rajahs of Rhythm later in the evening will be by Debbie Rothwell, who titles her number "Awake the Soul, Then Set it Free so it can Dance." Debbie started dancing when she was only three years old and now has her own dance school--The Hoboken Fitness and Dance Center. She performs ballet, modern, jazz, Greek, and belly dancing in cabarets and private parties in New York and New Jersey.

Hoboken residents Jim Cramer and musician Tom Vincent will preside as masters of ceremonies.

Gary Schneider, founder and conductor of the Hoboken Chamber Orchestra and winner of the Stowkowski Award for American conductors under the age of 35, will be at the piano with Perry Robinson on clarinet in a program of free improvisation.



Gary Schneider

John Parrott will add to the musical offerings with piano performances of his own compositions and a number of ragtime selections.

Recruited from his work at hotels and supper clubs in the metropolitan area will be Joe Rudick, piano stylist, saxophonist, and composer. Jazz pianist and composer Dennis Yerry, another talented Hoboken musician, will perform a Native American ritual in jazz idiom, vocals, and dance, assisted by Joan Henry. Yerry is a recording artist who has performed frequently at Stevens Institute of Technology and elsewhere.

Another pianist of the evening will be Richard Cahn, whose eclectic music background includes studies at Columbia University, Julliard, Manhattan School of Music, Aspen, Colorado, and Tanglewood, Mass. While living in Hoboken in the 1970s, Cahn composed an orchestral overture to the "The Little Prince" story of French writer Antoine de St.Exupery, and at the "Follies" will perform his own compositions for piano and flute.

The Hoboken Historical Museum is very fortunate to have in the lineup the wonderful David Sharps and Karen Leslie who will combine their circus skills of clowning, juggling, and mime in their act "Seious Foolishness." Their credits include national film, television, theatre, and circus appearances and travels to more than 40 countries.

An unusual performance of the evening will be "Glass House"



Joan Henry and Dennis Yerry



David Sharps and Karen Leslie

by Mark Whitecage and Rozanne Levine. Mark will play his self-designed-and-built sound sculptures with Rozanne on alto and soprano clarinets.

Whitecage has toured Europe with his sound sculptures and has been an artist-in-residence and recording artist with his strangely beautiful creations. Ms. Levine performs regularly with the Glass House Ensemble and is featured on an upcoming Glass House compact disc.

Popular Hoboken musician Gene Turonis will present a few solo numbers. When he's not performing with his band, "The Plumbers," Gene appears under the sophisticated name "Gene D. Plumber." Turonis said that in the 90s his focus will be more toward the single performance (with some recordings), as opposed to the 80s which was band-oriented. Young family "needs" means less time for music, he says.

The music continues with vocals of Luke Faust and his 12-string guitar and harmonica. Luke was a key member of the famous Hoboken-based band "Insect Trust," an early blues-rock group that incorporated jazz and folk music into its work. One of their records, now a sought-after collectors' item, is "Hoboken Saturday Night."

A new musical group recently formed here will make its debut. "Uke and the Low Lifes" features Hudson County cartoonist laureate Jim Ryan, baritone; ukelele and guitar; Steve Kilnisan, electric triangle;

and Helena Berger, banjo. Helena, daughter of guitarist-singer Luke Faust, is freshly returned from New Zealand.

Also scheduled to perform are Barbara Beeman, singer, and Bill Bannon, guitarist, of the Barbara Beeman Band, which has just released a folk rock blues record titled "So the Story Goes," now available at Hoboken's Pier Platters.

Other guests include "Billy Gee" and Nina Mars, guitar and vocals accompanied by Perry Robinson and Frankie Fame doing a down-by-the-riverside modern three-part mini-symphony: the attractive Tricia Provost will recite her poetry monologue; Miguel Weissman, the talented harmonica player, will present some folk, blues, bluegrass, and country; Lynn Earley, the "Libido," will warm up the audience with her "Bachelor Party" act; and an "improv" jam session will close the show with some of the most popular and gifted musicians in Hoboken: the highly charged Mike Kilmer, Emilio Zef, Ben Kilmer, Joe Rudnick, plus Perry Robinson, Joey George, Frankie Fame, and others.

In addition to live entertainment, art films will be shown by Geri Fallo, including silent footage from the 1920s and 30s, plus free Tarot card and astrology readings in the balcony by Susan Shaftan, Robin Shamburg, and Mahendra Joshi.



Mark Whitecage and Rozanne Levine in their studio.

Photo: Rozanne Levine

HOBOKEN FOLLIES
PROGRAM

8:00 THE RAJAHS OF RHYTHM: Perry Robinson, clarinet; Frankie Fame, vocals, drums; David Grego, bass

8:30 DEDICATION, INTRODUCTION: Masters of Cermonies: Jim Cramer/Tom Vincent

8:35 UKE-LOW LIFES: Jim Ryan, baritone, uke, guitar; Tom Bergin, accordian; Steve Kilnisan, electric triangle; Helena Berger, banjo

8:45 LUKE FAUST: Vocals, 12-string guitar, harmonica

9.00 RICHARD CAHN: piano, flute

9:15 "GLASS HOUSE": Mark Whitecage, alto sax, clarinet, sound sculpture; Rozanne Levine, clarinet

9:35 JIM HANS & HIS WONDER DOG: toy clarinet, Lee the "Westie Wonder," vocals

9:40 GARY SCHNEIDER: piano improvisations with Perry Robinson

9:55 "SEA FOOD SWING": Lisa & Paul Bellan-Boyer, vocals, backed by the Rajahs of Rhythm

10.10 JOHN PARROTT: ragtime, original piano, vocals

10.20 JOAN TORINO "THE JERSEY TOMATO": burlesque solo backed by the Rajahs of Rhythm

10:35 GENE D. PLUMBER: vocals, guitar

10:50 TRICIA PREVOST: poetry, monologue

11.00 "BILLY GEE" & NINA MARS: guitar, bass, vocals, accompanied by Perry Robinson & Frankie Fame

11.15 THE RAJAHS OF RHYTHM: with Ann O'Brien, swing dance

11:30 DAVID THE MAGIC MINSTREL: "Magic and music of the elements"

11:45 HUGH KILMER: "TREES" poetry recital with Dena Reynolds & the Rajahs, music and movement improvs; vintage recordings

12.00 BILL & BARBARA: "Music & Magic" with Drake Youla

12:15 "SERIOUS FOOLISHNESS": David Sharps & Karen Leslie, circus and clowning arts

12:30 MIGUEL WEISSMAN: Harmonica

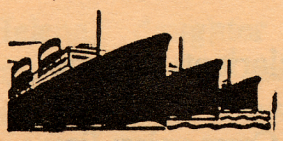
12.40 DEBBIE ROTHWELL: solo dance with "Billy Gee" and the Rajahs of Rhythm

12:50 "NOYEH ONGEH"" Native American ritual, Dennis Yerry, piano; Joan Henry, vocals and dance

1:05 LYNN EARLEY "LIBIDO": "Bachelor Party"

1:15 "IMPROV" JAM SESSION: Mike Kilmer, electric bass; Emile Zef, violin; Ben Kilmer, drums; Joe Rudick, sax, piano; with Perry Robinson, Frankie Fame, Joey George, and others.

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THE HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM
CITY HALL
WASHINGTON AND FIRST STS. HOBOKEN, N.J.

COME ONE COME ALL TO THE HOBOKEN FOLLIES

DATE: Friday April 27.
PLACE: Sharky's, 90 River St.
CURTAIN: 8 PM.
ADMISSION:
$12 at the door;
Museum members (who may join on the spot!), $10.
FREE PARKING at Pier A on River Street.

All proceeds will go to the Hoboken Historical Museum, sponsor of the event.

MEETING NOTICE

The Museum will hold a meeting, open to the public, Tuesday, April 24, at 7:30 PM in the Clam Broth House in Hoboken. No obligation, no funds solicited.

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