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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
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OA/ID Number: 13673
Folder ID Number: 13673-004

Folder Title:
International Very Special Arts Festival 6/15/89 [OA 6264] [1]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	19	1	7

*The only gift
is a portion of thyself.*
Ralph Waldo Emerson

1989
INTERNATIONAL VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL
JUNE 14 - 18, 1989

From June 14 to 18, 1989, Very Special Arts, an educational affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, will bring together more than 1,000 individuals with physical and mental challenges from over 40 countries and 50 states to celebrate and share their achievements in the arts. Events will be held at locations throughout the city including Capitol Hill, the White House, the Kennedy Center, Union Station, Old Post Office Pavilion and many others.

Over 1,000 volunteers are needed in many capacities before and during the Festival. Volunteers will be involved in special events, hospitality, public relations, logistics, housing, meals, administration, and assisting individuals with international and special needs.

For further information regarding volunteering for the 1989 International Very Special Arts Festival, please contact Gigi Davis at 662-8899.



VERY
SPECIAL
ARTS

Enriching the lives of people with disabilities

1989 International Very Special Arts Festival Volunteer Teams

Volunteers Team. Volunteers assigned to the Volunteers Team will be responsible for working with the Volunteer Coordinator to assure that all volunteers have necessary briefing packets, location assignments, registration information, and comprehensive materials relating to specific assignments.

Special Needs Team. Volunteers assigned to the Special Needs Team will be responsible for acting as mobility aids for participants at all sites and as first aid and medical staff assistants at all venues. Volunteers will also act as sign language interpreters for both one-on-one conversations and larger audiences.

Special Events Team. Volunteers assigned to the Special Events Team will act as hosts/hostesses to the VIPs. These volunteers will also greet participants and guests at the Opening Event, Closing Ceremony, the White House, the International and Congressional Receptions, and various other special events. If refreshments are served, these volunteers will help serve the refreshments.

Logistics Team. Volunteers assigned to the Logistics Team will be responsible for assisting delegations to and from the transportation vehicles, with communications at command center locations.

International Team. Volunteers assigned to the International Team will aid staff in preparing registration packets, reviewing travel arrangements and working with the Hospitality Team in welcoming the incoming participants.

Housing/Meals Team. Volunteers assigned to the Housing and Meals Team will be responsible for greeting delegates at Georgetown University and the overflow hotels, and for aiding participants at meal sites.

Hospitality Team. Volunteers assigned to the Hospitality Team will assist the Volunteer and Registration Coordinators prior to the Festival to create a "festive" atmosphere to welcome all of the delegations. During the Festival these volunteers will greet delegates at the airports and Union Station and assist with registration and information areas at Georgetown University, overflow hotels and the Kennedy Center.

Festival Days Team. Volunteers assigned to the Festival Days Team will act as crowd-controllers, workshop assistants, ushers, and aid to participants at all events. This team will be the largest group of volunteers and will be involved in the hands-on aspect of the Festival.

Production Team. Volunteers assigned to the Production Team will assist the production company in staging and technical operations. These volunteers will help coordinate sound and/or lighting at performance locations.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 31, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR WHITE HOUSE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACTS

FROM: THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL SERVICE

SUBJECT: Volunteer Opportunity - "Very Special Arts"

The Office of National Service would appreciate your help in communicating to others in your office the need for volunteers during the week of the International Very Special Arts Festival, June 14-18, 1989.

The attached information gives all of the details of whom to contact and what is available if you would like to volunteer. If you would copy it for others in your office perhaps we can help in this great opportunity to get involved.

Thank you for your help in circulating this information.

*The only gift
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Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Thank you for your help in circulating this information.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 8, 1989
KBK

John Chin

MEMORANDUM

TO: DAVID DEMAREST
FROM: JOSEPH W. HAGIN
SUBJECT: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

EVENT: Reception for The Very Special Arts

DATE: June 15, 1989

TIME: (T) 2:00 p.m.

DURATION: 45 Minutes

LOCATION: South Lawn

ATTIRE: Business Suit

REMARKS REQUIRED: Yes *brief remarks*

MEDIA COVERAGE: Open

FIRST LADY PARTICIPATION: Yes

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Smith
Call Advance: [unclear] Simon
for specific length

CONTACT: _____

TELEPHONE: OFFICE _____ HOME _____

NOTE: PROJECT OFFICER, SEE ATTACHED CHECKLIST

Ed Rogers

James Cicconi

Fred McClure

Susan Porter Rose

Patty Presock

Speechwriting Office

Laurie Firestone

Robert Guttman

Marlin Fitzwater

David Demarest

Jean Lamb

Steve Studdert

John Keller

Tim McBride

J. Bonnie Newman

Tony Lopez

David Bates

David Valdez

USSS - PPD

Operations - Executive Residence

WHCA Audio/Visual

WHCA Operations

Students

VERY SPECIAL ARTS

SOUTH LAWN
EAST ROOM BACK UP

EVENT HELD ONCE EVERY 5 YEARS

THIS IS THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

FEATURED ON NBC PRIME TIME FESTIVAL

THURSDAY JUNE 15th ; 12-1:30 OR
11:30-1:00

SOUTH LAWN

STAGE - NATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT

REFRESHMENTS

REMARKS

THERE HAS BEEN A PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION IN PAST

PHOTO-OP w/ KEY SPONSORS @ 12 people Dip or Oval

POTUS + MRS. TO BE HONORARY CHAIRS OF EVENT ?

REJECTED POTUS/MRS. INVOLVEMENT IN PRESS CONF.
ANSWERING FESTIVAL

Call Joe Wagon Fri March 17

- Student
- Prerequisite

KATHY FENTON (2004)

2:00

First Lady
Tentative

Peggy

REMARKS: VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL
THE WHITE HOUSE
JUNE 15, 1989
2:15 P.M.

THANK YOU, JEAN, FOR THOSE KIND WORDS -- AND
CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE
VERY SPECIAL ARTS PROGRAM ON THE FINE WORK YOU DO.

LET ME TELL YOU HOW PLEASED BARBARA AND I ARE TO
HAVE FRONT-ROW SEATS FOR SUCH AN INSPIRING PERFORMANCE.

- 2 -

I THINK THE WORLD IS GOING TO HEAR A LOT FROM THIS
REMARKABLE YOUNG MAN, PHONGSAK (PONG-SOCK) MEUNCHANAI
(MOON'-CHA-NYE). FROM THE STREETS OF BANGKOK, TO THE
SOUTH LAWN OF THE WHITE HOUSE: WHAT A JOURNEY. IT
TELLS US ALL: THERE'S NO LIMIT ON HOW FAR WE CAN GO,
ON WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE.

HERE AT THE WHITE HOUSE, WE'RE PRIVILEGED TO HAVE
THE WORLD'S GREAT ARTISTS AND ENTERTAINERS COME TO US.

- 3 -

IT'S A SPECIAL TREAT FOR US TO HAVE SO MANY TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE, FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD, BRING YOUR ART -- YOUR SPECIAL ABILITIES -- HERE TO WASHINGTON. I ONLY WISH ALL OF YOU COULD PERFORM HERE TODAY.

YOU ARE WELL ON YOUR WAY TO THE KIND OF LIFE I WANT TO SEE FOR EVERY AMERICAN: A LIFE OF INDEPENDENCE, OPPORTUNITY, AND PRODUCTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THE MAINSTREAM.

- 4 -

THAT MEANS A COMMITMENT ON SOCIETY'S PART TO END DISCRIMINATION, TO INCREASE ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY -- IN OUR SCHOOLS, ON THE JOB, AND IN EVERY ASPECT OF SOCIETY.

YOU DON'T LET YOUR DISABILITIES STAND IN THE WAY. IT'S UP TO US TO MAKE SURE DISCRIMINATION DOESN'T STOP YOU. FEDERAL LAW MUST PROTECT INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

- 5 -

I WANT TO SHARE A STORY WITH YOU -- A WONDERFUL STORY TOLD TO ME BY JEAN KENNEDY SMITH. IT'S ABOUT A BLIND YOUNG MAN, A SCULPTOR, JEAN MET IN IRELAND SEVERAL YEARS AGO. JEAN WATCHED AS THIS SIGHTLESS BOY SCULPTED A FACE FROM CLAY -- A MARVEL OF DETAIL, OF MASTERFUL EXPRESSION.

WHAT JEAN SAID MADE AN IMPRESSION ON ME: "ART GAVE THAT BOY THE POWER TO SEE FOR THE REST OF US."

- 6 -

THAT'S TRUE. ALL ART IS A VISION THAT COMES FROM WITHIN.

EACH OF YOU HAS A SPECIAL TALENT -- TO MAKE US SEE WHAT YOU SEE, FEEL WHAT YOU FEEL, HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.

SHARE YOUR GIFT -- AND IT WILL GROW.

YOU'VE MADE THIS A VERY SPECIAL AFTERNOON. THANK YOU, AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

#

Very Special Arts
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
White House Performance
June 15, 2:00pm
Proposed Show

(As of 6/14)

- 1:30 Navv Sea Chanters perform as the delegations arrive and take their seats.
- 1:58 The announcer introduces the President and First Lady.
- 2:00 An announcer asks the audience to stand for the singing of the National Anthem of the United States of America.
- A color guard enters bearing the American flag. When in place, the Sea Chanters sing the National Anthem
- 2:04 Master of Ceremonies
Monty Hall will welcome all, introduce event talk briefly about the International Festival and will then introduce the first performer.
- 2:07 VSA American Group
The Gallaudet Dance Company, from Gallaudet University who sign and dance to upbeat contemporary numbers.
- 2:11 Master of Ceremonies
Monty Hall will introduce other celebrities present including: Marsha Mason, Miss Universe, Kate Mulgrew, Hiro Yamagata, Pearl Bailey, etc. He then introduces the Wynton Marsalis quintet.
- 2:14 Wynton Marsalis
America's leading jazz musician performs along with his blind pianist (presently with the #2 jazz song), Marcus Roberts.
- 2:19 Master of Ceremonies
Monty Hall thanks Wynton Marsalis and introduces Very Special Arts Around the World.

2:23 VSA International Performer
A performance by a young man from Bangkok, Thailand, who once was a street beggar and now sings in eight languages. Phonqsak Muenchanai.

2:26 Master of Ceremonies
Monty Hall introduces Kenny Rogers.

2:28 Kenny Rogers
Kenny Rogers talks to the audience and performs a number called "When You Put Your Heart In It" with a group of young people (3:42).

2:33 Kenny Rogers
Kenny Rogers invites back to stage all those who have performed, including Wynton, Phonqsak, etc. plus the celebrity artists such as Pearl Bailey, Hiro Yamagata, Marsha Mason, Monty Hall, etc. All form a line across upstage.

He then introduces Mrs. Jean Kennedy Smith, founder of Very Special Arts.

2:35 Mrs. Smith
Mrs. Smith makes brief remarks about VSA and thanks the President and Mrs. Bush for hosting this event.

2:37 She then introduces a group of VSA performers/artists (children) to make a special presentation to the President. Kenny assists. She invites the President to the stage.

2:38 President
The President comes up on stage to receive the gift and makes brief remarks.

2:40 Finale
Immediately after the President's remarks, Kenny Rogers (or one of the other celebrities, steps forward, makes a closing statement and leads into singing a moving and exciting melody of the songs "Put A Little Love In Your Heart" and "Headed For The Future". The number builds and builds to an exciting conclusion.

2:44 Outside Event Ends... Reception begins.

Very Special Arts
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
White House Performance
June 15. 2:00pm

RAIN PLAN
Proposed Show

(As of 6/14)

- 1:30 Navy Sea Chanters perform as the delegations arrive and take their seats.
- 1:58 The announcer introduces the President and First Lady.
- 2:00 An announcer asks the audience to stand for the singing of the National Anthem of the United States of America.
- A color guard enters bearing the American flag. When in place, the Sea Chanters sing the National Anthem
- 2:04 Master of Ceremonies
Monty Hall will welcome all, introduce event, apologize for weather, talks briefly about the International Festival.
- Monty Hall will introduce other celebrities present including: Marsha Mason, Miss Universe, Kate Mulgrew, Hiro Yamaqata, Pearl Bailey, etc. He then introduces Very Special Arts Around the World.
- 2:08 VSA International Performer
A performance by a young man from Bangkok, Thailand, who once was a street beggar and now sings in eight languages. Phonasak Muenchanai.
- 2:10 Master of Ceremonies
Monty Hall introduces Kenny Rogers.
- 2:13 Kenny Rogers
Kenny Rogers talks to the audience and performs a number called "When You Put Your Heart In It" with a group of young people (3:42).

2:18

Kenny Rogers

Kenny Rogers invites back to stage all those who have performed, including Winton, Phonosak, etc. plus the celebrity artists such as Pearl Bailey, Hiro Yamagata, Marsha Mason, Monty Hall, etc. All form a line across the front of the tent.

He then introduces Mrs. Jean Kennedy Smith, founder of Very Special Arts.

2:23

Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith makes brief remarks about VSA and thanks the President and Mrs. Bush for hosting this event.

2:27

She then introduces a group of VSA performers/artists (children) to make a special presentation to the President. Kenny assists. She invites the President to the stage.

2:29

President

The President comes up on stage to receive the gift and makes brief remarks.

2:32

Finale

Immediately after the President's remarks, Kenny Rogers (or one of the other celebrities, steps forward, makes a closing statement and leads into singing a moving and exciting melody of the songs "Put A Little Love In Your Heart" and "Headed For The Future". The number builds and builds to an exciting conclusion.

2:37

Outside Event Ends... Reception begins.

McGroarty
June 12, 1989
9:00 am
Draft 2

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL
THE WHITE HOUSE
JUNE 15, 1989
2:15 P.M.

Marty Hall
Winton Muralto
Kenny Rogers

[Introductory remarks/acknowledgements....] Thank you,

Jean, for those kind words -- and congratulations to you and everyone involved in the Very Special Arts program on the fine work you do.

Let me tell you how pleased Barbara and I are to have front-row seats for such an inspiring performance. I think the world is going to hear a lot from this remarkable young man, Phongsak Meunchanai. From the streets of Bangkok, to the South Lawn of the White House: what a journey. It tells us all: there's no limit on how far we can go, on what we can achieve.

Here at the White House, we're privileged to have the world's great artists and entertainers come to us. It's a special treat for us to have so many talented young people, from across the country and around the world, bring your art -- your special abilities -- here to Washington. I only wish all of you could perform here today.

You are well on your way to the kind of life I want to see for every disabled American: a life of independence, freedom of

poonun?

Maon chag nye

might
Pong-sek
sock

Ron
Miziker
VSA
662-8891

choice, and **productive involvement in the mainstream**. That means a commitment on society's part to end discrimination, to increase access and opportunity -- in our schools, on the job, and in every aspect of society.

You don't let your disabilities stand in the way. It's up to us to make sure discrimination doesn't stop you.

I want to share a story with you -- a wonderful story told to me by Jean Kennedy Smith. It's about a blind young man, a sculptor, Jean met in Ireland several years ago. Jean watched as this sightless boy sculpted a face from clay -- a marvel of detail, of masterful expression.

USA
brochure
P. 4

What Jean said made an impression on me: "Art gave that boy the power to see for the rest of us."

That's true. All art is a vision that comes from within.

Each of you has a special talent -- to make us see what you see, feel what you feel, hear what you have to say.

Share your gift -- and it will grow.

You've made this a very special afternoon. Thank you, and God bless you all.

~~KA~~ -

~~When you put your heart in it
w/ you~~

AR - youth

YCC

Peace Corps / VISTA

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 13, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: DANIEL MCGROARTY

SUBJECT: REMARKS AT VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL

I. SUMMARY:

On Thursday, June 15, 1989, 2:30 pm, you will make brief remarks to participants in the International Very Special Arts Festival, following a performance on the South Lawn. Very Special Arts Festival participants range in age from 8 to 65, and include the physically as well as developmentally disabled. Approximately 1000 participants and guests will attend, representing all 50 states and 51 foreign nations. Jazz artist Wynton Marsalis and other celebrities will entertain -- as will Very Special Arts performers including a dance troupe from Gallaudet College and Phongsak Muenchanai, a 12-year old blind singer from Thailand. Mrs. Bush will attend with you.

II. DISCUSSION:

The Very Special Arts Festival is a showcase for the many talented disabled people who have learned to express themselves through art. This event provides an excellent opportunity to emphasize your commitment to bringing disabled Americans into the mainstream -- to put the accent on ability, rather than disability.

McGroarty
June 12, 1989
9:00 am
Draft 2

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL
THE WHITE HOUSE
JUNE 15, 1989
2:15 P.M.

[Introductory remarks/ acknowledgements....] Thank you, Jean, for those kind words -- and congratulations to you and everyone involved in the Very Special Arts program on the fine work you do.

Let me tell you how pleased Barbara and I are to have front-row seats for such an inspiring performance. I think the world is going to hear a lot from this remarkable young man, Phongsak Meunchanai. From the streets of Bangkok, to the South Lawn of the White House: what a journey. It tells us all: there's no limit on how far we can go, on what we can achieve.

Here at the White House, we're privileged to have the world's great artists and entertainers come to us. It's a special treat for us to have so many talented young people, from across the country and around the world, bring your art -- your special abilities -- here to Washington. I only wish all of you could perform here today.

You are well on your way to the kind of life I want to see for every American: a life of independence, freedom of choice,

and productive involvement in the mainstream. That means a commitment on society's part to end discrimination, to increase access and opportunity -- in our schools, on the job, and in every aspect of society.

You don't let your disabilities stand in the way. It's up to us to make sure discrimination doesn't stop you. Federal Law must protect individuals with disabilities.

I want to share a story with you -- a wonderful story told to me by Jean Kennedy Smith. It's about a blind young man, a sculptor, Jean met in Ireland several years ago. Jean watched as this sightless boy sculpted a face from clay -- a marvel of detail, of masterful expression.

What Jean said made an impression on me: "Art gave that boy the power to see for the rest of us."

That's true. All art is a vision that comes from within.

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Share your gift -- and it will grow.

You've made this a very special afternoon. Thank you, and
God bless you all.

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EVENT/LOCATION	DATE	PROJ.OFFICER	WRITER/RESEARCH	C.W. DRAFT	STAFFING	TO POTUS
Ducks Unlimited	06/08/89 Thursday	K. Jeavons	Lange Wallace	06/01/89 Thursday	06/05/89 Monday	06/06/89 Tuesday
Video Session	06/09/89 Friday	K. Taylor	Tron	06/02/89 Friday	06/05/89 Monday	06/06/89 Tuesday
Clean Air Announcement	06/12/89 Monday	K. Jeavons	Lange Wallace	06/07/89 Wednesday	06/07/89 Wednesday	06/09/89 Friday
Grand Tetons Environment	06/13/89 Tuesday	S. Studdert	McNally Simon	06/06/89 Tuesday	06/08/89 Thursday	06/09/89 Friday
University of Nebraska	06/13/89 Tuesday	K. Jeavons	McGroarty Simon	06/07/89 Wednesday	06/08/89 Thursday	06/09/89 Friday
Korean War Memorial	06/14/89 Wednesday	TBD	Smith Blessey	06/09/89 Friday	06/12/89 Monday	06/13/89 Tuesday
President's Dinner	06/14/89 Wednesday	J. Wray	Davis Martin	06/07/89 Wednesday	06/09/89 Friday	06/12/89 Monday
Crime Package	06/15/89 Thursday	TBD	Grant Wallace	06/08/89 Thursday	06/12/89 Monday	06/13/89 Tuesday
Georgia -- Glen Cove	06/15/89 Thursday	S. Studdert	Davis Martin	06/08/89 Thursday	06/12/89 Monday	06/13/89 Tuesday
Very Special Arts	06/15/89 Thursday	S. Sanchez	McGroarty Dooley	06/08/89 Thursday	06/09/89 Friday	06/12/89 Monday

SPEECHWRITING AND RESEARCH OFFICES
DAILY PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH SCHEDULE

EVENT/LOCATION	DATE	PROJ.OFFICER	WRITER/RESEARCH	C.W. DRAFT	STAFFING	TO POTUS
U.S. Attorneys	06/16/89 Friday	TBD	McNally Simon	06/09/89 Friday	06/13/89 Tuesday	06/14/89 Wednesday
Cheltenham High	06/19/89 Monday	S. DeCamp	Smith Blessey	06/09/89 Friday	06/13/89 Tuesday	06/14/89 Wednesday
Drug Free Schools - B.R.	06/19/89 Monday	TBD	Grant Martin	06/12/89 Monday	06/14/89 Wednesday	06/15/89 Thursday
Citizen Bee	06/20/89 Tuesday	TBD <i>(Tony Benady?)</i> TBD	McGroarty Dooley	06/13/89 Tuesday	06/15/89 Thursday	06/16/89 Friday
President Barco - Columbia	06/20/89 Tuesday	B. Scowcroft	Lange Wallace	06/13/89 Thursday	06/14/89 Wednesday	06/15/89 Thursday
Motor Coach Association	06/21/89 Wednesday	TBD	McNally Simon	06/14/89 Friday	06/15/89 Thursday	06/16/89 Friday
VA G.O.P. Fundraiser	06/21/89 Monday	Wray/Kilberg	Davis Martin	06/14/89 Friday	06/14/89 Wednesday	06/15/89 Thursday
G.O.P. - New York City	06/22/89 Thursday	A. Card	Davis Martin	06/15/89 Thursday	06/19/89 Monday	06/20/89 Tuesday
New York Partnership	06/22/89 Thursday	TBD	Smith Blessey	06/15/89 Thursday	06/19/89 Monday	06/20/89 Tuesday
Wall Street Journal	06/22/89 Thursday	M. Fitzwater	McNally Simon	06/15/89 Thursday	06/16/89 Friday	06/19/89 Monday

2:03

Gallaudet Dance Co.

2:10

Winton Marsalis:

Blind.
piano: Marcus Roberts.

Phong ~~SAK~~ MUENE HAWAII.

2:17 ~~young~~

Thailand 12-yr. old

Blind beggar. street of Bangkok Celebrity.

2:25

5 languages...

Jean Kennedy Smith.

2:30 →

Celeb.]
on stage

group of children...
present... (?)
from. — painting. —

Tues. →

06/07/89 11:02:53

SPEECHWRITING AND RESEARCH OFFICES
DAILY PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH SCHEDULE

Page: 3

EVENT/LOCATION	DATE	PROJ.OFFICER	WRITER/RESEARCH	C.W. DRAFT	STAFFING	TO POTUS
A.A.U.W.	06/26/89 Monday	B. Kilberg	McGroarty Dooley	06/19/89 Monday	06/21/89 Wednesday	06/22/89 Thursday
Switchers Remarks	06/26/89 Monday	TBD	Grant Wallace	06/19/89 Monday	06/21/89 Wednesday	06/22/89 Thursday
Prime Minister Hawke	06/27/89 Tuesday	B. Scowcroft	Davis Martin	06/20/89 Tuesday	06/22/89 Thursday	06/23/89 Friday
President Mobuto - Zaire	06/29/89 Thursday	B. Scowcroft	Smith Blessey	06/22/89 Thursday	06/26/89 Monday	06/27/89 Tuesday
King Fahd - Saudi Arabia	07/27/89 Thursday	B. Scowcroft		07/20/89 Thursday	07/24/89 Monday	07/25/89 Tuesday

Kate Moore: 366-9191.

VSA

out that's made you...
find you're way...

Sweet flowers
662-8899
USA.
Billie Jean

~~Ken. -~~
K.C.S.
Champion: USA Festival.

(202) 826-5010 (G)
557-3750 (office)

662-8899

Gilbert

Custodian

Ken Mizler

Creative producer...

~~Kirk Demay~~

Kirk Demay

Dear
Heimlich

2564

1:30 pm



**VERY
SPECIAL
ARTS**

Enriching the lives of people with disabilities

Education Office, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Washington, D.C. 20566 VOICE (202) 662-8899 TDD (202) 662-8898

Susan M. Flowers
*Director, International
Very Special Arts Festival*



**VERY
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Enriching the lives of people with disabilities

Education Office, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Washington, D.C. 20566 VOICE (202) 662-8899 TDD (202) 662-8898

Eugene C. Maillard
Chief Executive Officer



**VERY
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Enriching the lives of people with disabilities

Education Office, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Washington, D.C. 20566 VOICE (202) 662-8899 TDD (202) 662-8898

Lindsey Sheehy
Assistant to
Chief Executive Officer

International



**VERY
SPECIAL
ARTS
FESTIVAL**

From June 14-18, 1989, Very Special Arts will celebrate its 15th anniversary by hosting the International Very Special Arts Festival. More than 1,000 Very Special Arts participants from the United States and 50 other nations will come together in Washington, D.C. to share the joy of artistic achievement.

These special artists who are physically and mentally challenged will be joined on stages, in galleries and at Washington landmarks by prominent artists from film, theatre, music, dance and the visual arts. Michael Douglas will chair the International Festival Artists Committee, and a host of celebrities including Harrison Ford, Sir John Gielgud, Kelly McGillis, Phylicia Rashad -- and Jim Hensen's Muppets -- will be lending their support.

Highlights of the Festival's activities will include:

- The Torpedo Factory Street Fair, an all day celebration of music, merriment and art in Old Towne, Alexandria, for people of all ages to enjoy.
- Family Days! at the Kennedy Center featuring artstops, workshops, exhibits and performances in music, dance, theatre, mime and the visual arts.
- Lunchtime Concert Series at the Old Post Office Pavilion, Union Station and along Pennsylvania Avenue by Very Special Arts vocalists, orchestras and other performers.
- Fantastic Fireworks on the Potomac -- a dazzling display will light up the night sky to synchronized, original music.
- A spectacular closing gala at the Kennedy Center, where all-star performers will salute the Festival and its participants with song and dance.

A prime-time network television show featuring highlights of the Festival will be produced by Gary Smith, whose credits include "Liberty Weekend" and "Christmas in Washington." This special production, airing later this summer on NBC, will increase international recognition of the abilities of people with mental and physical challenges.

The 1989 International Very Special Arts Festival will also serve as a showcase for model programs and arts education techniques implemented by Very Special Arts affiliates around the world and promises to be an exceptional opportunity for people of all nationalities and abilities to communicate through the universal language of artistic expression.

THE 1989 INTERNATIONAL VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL

On June 14, 1989, more than 1,000 children and adults, from the United States and 50 other countries, will come to Washington, D.C. for the experience of a lifetime. They will find themselves in an inspiring environment, where attention will focus on talent, not disability. Families, teachers, artists, volunteers and supporters around the world will applaud their accomplishments in the arts: in music...in dance...in drama...in creative writing and the visual arts...in expression uniquely theirs.



This is the International Very Special Arts Festival, a special time for both the artists and the important network of others involved. The International Festival is held to highlight the achievements of people with disabilities from around the globe.



This four-day festival of fun, friendship and artistic accomplishment demonstrates the power of the arts to integrate individuals with physical and mental challenges into the mainstream of society — and transcends the boundaries of culture, language, politics and ability.

The International Festival sends a far-reaching message, not only to Festival participants and their parents, but to educators,

(over)

the business community, arts organizations, the media and the public.

Among its many compelling benefits, the Festival:

- Increases international recognition of the skills and abilities of children, youth and adults with special needs.
- Demonstrates the impact of the arts on enhancing basic learning skills.
- Honors the commitment of tens of thousands of teachers, counselors and volunteers worldwide.
- Transcends cultural and language barriers as people from around the world communicate through artistic expression.
- Provides a showcase for many model programs and innovative arts education techniques developed and implemented by national and international affiliates of Very Special Arts, highlighting the organization's position as a leader in the field of arts for people with special needs.



THE VERY SPECIAL ARTS STORY

In the 1960s and '70s, major changes were taking place in our nation's social and political consciousness. The civil rights movement was a major force behind these changes, ushering in a new era of understanding and acceptance of America's minorities.

People with disabilities benefited from society's new awareness and empathy, as several major laws went into effect to provide them with better educational and social opportunities. Yet there remained a wide disparity between the opportunities available to most Americans and those available to their physically or mentally challenged neighbors.

“To be what we are, to become what we are capable of becoming, is the only end of life.”

— Robert Louis Stevenson



In 1974, Jean Kennedy Smith moved to fill that gap by founding the organization known today as Very Special Arts. The goal: to enrich the lives of people with special needs and help them integrate into the mainstream of society through the arts.

Working with a small staff under the name “National Committee, Arts With The Handicapped” (NCAH), the organization's primary focus was to provide creative opportunities to children with disabilities. This was accomplished with the implementation of the “Very Special Arts Festival,” a non-competitive exposition featuring performances, workshops, demonstrations and participatory activities in dance, theater, music, creative writing and the visual arts. The Festivals opened new avenues of communication and understanding for individuals of all ages and abilities, breaking down barriers created around people with special needs.

With the enthusiastic support of community service agencies and other grass roots organizations, the Festival program grew rapidly. NCAH expanded its focus,

(over)



supporting model sites with ongoing programs in the arts for children and youth, to serve as regional resource and demonstration centers. Special Projects were identified and sponsored to encourage innovative, developmental or experimental programs with potential for national impact.

As the organization celebrated its fifth anniversary, it paid tribute to the phenomenal growth of arts programs for people with physical and mental challenges with the first National Very Special Arts Festival. More than 850 children and adults from all 50 states came to Washington, D.C. to participate in the event that is now held every five years and has come to be the centerpiece of the Very Special Arts program.

In 1984, NCAH extended its reach overseas and created an international committee to oversee development of Very Special Arts programs in Eastern and Western Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa.



The following year, NCAH consolidated its growth and reorganized as Very Special Arts. New emphasis was placed on the development of private, non-profit affiliates in every state. Since then, increased private funding and volunteer support have been essential in helping Very Special Arts meet the growing demand for quality arts programs for people with special needs.

Very Special Arts continues to grow at a vigorous rate and currently supports programs in more than 15,000 U.S. communities, as well as 46 nations. Programming activities have expanded dramatically in the past year, with new initiatives taking place in the arts for people of all ages. In 1989 Very Special Arts will celebrate its 15th anniversary by sponsoring the first International Very Special Arts Festival.

This astonishing growth is testimony to the fact that Very Special Arts is an idea whose time has come.

ACTIVITIES

For four days, metropolitan Washington, D.C. will be alive with the International Very Special Arts Festival.

Imagine the city. Participants from around the world, staying together on the historic Georgetown University campus. Opening ceremonies to kick off the festivities. Workshops, performances, demonstrations and exhibits held throughout the Festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Performances at the White House. A reception on Capitol Hill.



There will be dance... song... drama... laughter... discovery... and pride.

Celebrated artists and educators from the United States and abroad will join the Very Special Artists. Highlights of activities include:

- Network television special, produced by Gary Smith, renowned for the "Liberty Weekend" opening ceremonies
- Special performance at the White House
- Congressional reception
- Art show on Capitol Hill
- Opening concert at Kennedy Center
- Celebrity performances by artists from around the world
- Workshops for educators and parents demonstrating the latest innovations in arts training
- Hundreds of demonstrations, exhibitions and performances by Very Special Arts participants featuring accomplishments in dance, theater, music, creative writing and visual arts.



A POWERFUL GRASS ROOTS NETWORK

The rapid growth of Very Special Arts can be attributed to its widespread grass roots support. Every day of the year, around the world, new programs reach Very Special Arts participants, thanks to the 67,000 individuals and thousands of civic clubs and businesses that volunteer their time and financial support. Their goal is to give all people who are mentally and physically challenged an opportunity to discover the world of art.

The scope of this volunteer network is expansive, providing services to more than one million people nationwide. It is largely because of this ability to mobilize volunteers

and rally community support that Very Special Arts has been designated by the U.S. Congress as the nation's coordinating agency of arts programs for people with disabilities.

These programs are given direction by a volunteer Board of Directors composed of 25 voting members — national leaders in the fields of arts, education and business.

Board policies are implemented by a national staff which oversees the work of employees and volunteers in all 50 states and in 46 nations.

VERY SPECIAL ARTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ENRICHMENT THROUGH THE ARTS — TWO VERY SPECIAL ARTISTS

Very Special Arts is dedicated to enriching the lives of people with special needs through the arts. Its programs are designed to develop learning skills and artistic responsiveness, and enhance self-esteem.

Through Very Special Arts, program participants gain important personal and vocational skills that they can apply to other facets of their lives.



Very Special Arts also plays a vital role in the community by integrating individuals with physical and mental challenges into the mainstream of society through the arts.

But what does this mean to the individuals involved with Very Special Arts?

For 11-year-old Jason Ellsworth, who is blind and has cerebral palsy, music is a gift he enjoys sharing with others. "When I'm singing," he says, "it makes me happy. . . . What makes me happy when I sing is the sound and the feelings. And I forget my troubles."

When Jason sings, the melody seems to carry him out of himself. His song gives life a vibrant, joyful sound.

Through Very Special Arts, Jason has performed — from the Grand Ole Opry to the White House — with such legendary entertainers as Tammy Wynette, Eddie Rabbitt, the Gatlin Brothers, and Gladys Knight and the Pips. Each time he sings, Jason makes a difference. And the opportunity to share his love of music makes a big difference to him.

"When I was very young — maybe four or five — I saw a woman dancing on TV," remembers Terrylene Theriot. "Of course there was no sound . . . my whole family is deaf. But I ran and got my mother to turn the volume up as loud as it would go. Suddenly, I realized there was music."

That was the opening into another world for Terrylene Theriot . . . a visa to a world of music, drama and dance. She could not hear a melody as anything more than a humming. Sometimes there would be a beat. But for Terrylene that was enough to dream that she would someday use words, music and dance to communicate.

And she has. Her play "Imagine," was produced at Kennedy Center with George Segal in the starring role, as well as by the



Royal Court Theatre in London. She has also toured the United Kingdom in a production of "Godspell." Terrylene has only begun.

"Just because I'm deaf doesn't mean I'm isolated. Anyone can have that. Talk isn't necessarily communication. If the world was full of laughter I could hear that. I choose not to be a prisoner of bitterness but to see a beautiful world."

SPECIAL PROJECTS— SPARKING INNOVATION

Why open one door when you can open many? That has been the philosophy from the start as Very Special Arts, in cooperation with prominent organizations, has created and promoted innovative model programs in the arts. Some of these exciting projects include:

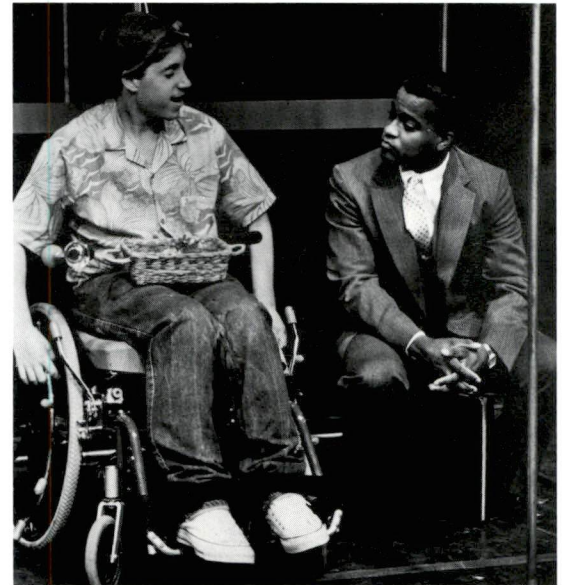
The New Visions Dance Project— teaches people who are blind and visually-impaired how to express themselves through movement and dance in a program developed with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center and replicated by dance companies nationwide.



The Henry Fonda Young Playwrights Project— invites students to create and communicate through their participation in playwriting workshops and classes in schools across the country. Young playwrights develop plays that address some aspect of disability— and gain new perspectives on daily living. Outstanding plays from the program are selected for presentation at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The Early Childhood Project— stimulates the development of social and learning skills for infants and pre-school children through the introduction of the arts in early education. Planned activities such as puppetry, storytelling, theater games, dance and music, develop skills that are relevant to the child's daily surroundings as well as preparatory for later life. Model sites offer unique programs for children with special needs, their parents and teachers.

Artists Unlimited— enables hospitals, nursing homes and other institutions to select artwork created by Very Special Arts



participants to brighten their environments, and conducts workshops where patients may create their own artwork in a program developed in cooperation with Humana Inc.

Veterans Administration Arts Workshops— offers music, dance, drama, creative writing and visual arts workshops to hospitalized veterans as a way of developing important learning and living skills.

The Itzhak Perlman Award— named for the internationally acclaimed violinist and Very Special Arts board member, this annual scholarship program encourages young musicians to pursue careers in the performing arts.

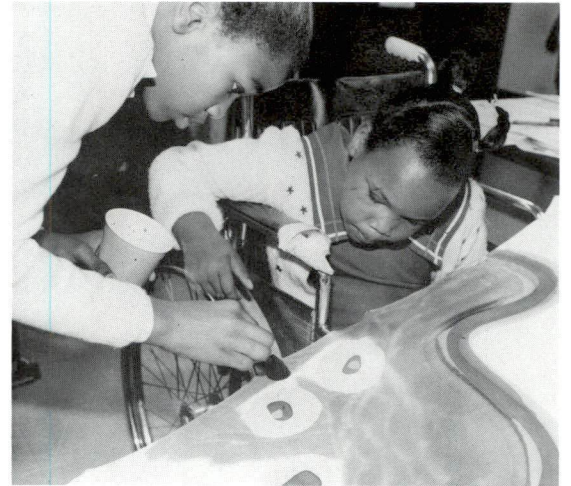
LOCAL FESTIVALS—AN OPEN DOOR

Very Special Arts has another important goal: to heighten public awareness and support of people with special needs in the community.

Very Special Arts Festivals have proven to be important vehicles for encouraging better understanding of disability. Festivals integrate all individuals in educational arts activities, and highlight artistic achievements. More than 15,000 communities across the U.S. participate in Very Special Arts Festivals.

The Festivals are a culmination of year-round programming—including special projects, workshops, performances, training sessions and exhibitions—conducted at schools, recreation centers, and community facilities.

Festivals are non-competitive forums that demonstrate the power of the arts to



stimulate learning and uncover unique talents. These celebrations confirm the findings of educators: theater helps people become better readers... music aids learning of fundamental math skills... physical coordination and fine motor skills are enhanced by practicing dance, painting and sculpture.

Most of all, the arts tap the imagination. By nurturing creative potential, Very Special Arts has helped people with physical and mental challenges open the door to the cultural and educational mainstream of society. By sponsoring Very Special Arts Festivals, supporters are opening the same door in their communities.



VERY SPECIAL ARTS

Very Special Arts is an international organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children, youth and adults with special needs through programs in the arts. Founded in 1974 by Jean Kennedy Smith as an educational affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, **Very Special Arts** provides opportunities in drama, dance, music, literature and the visual arts for individuals with mental and physical challenges. **Very Special Arts** seeks to establish avenues through which people with disabilities may enter the mainstream of society and to promote worldwide awareness of the educational and cultural benefits of the arts for all people.

Across the United States, over one million people in 15,000 communities participate in **Very Special Arts** activities. **Very Special Arts** programs and training sessions are conducted in over 1,000 **Very Special Arts** sites in all 50 states.

At the heart of the organization is the **Very Special Arts Festival** -- a non-competitive program for children, youth and adults with special needs to celebrate and share their accomplishments in the arts through performances, exhibitions and workshops. **Very Special Arts Festivals** are the culmination of year-round programming efforts. Over 650 festivals will occur this year, and workshops, training and materials are available -- not only for people who are physically and mentally challenged, but also for educators, parents and friends.

The international program of **Very Special Arts**, established in 1984, has affiliates in 50 nations around the globe. Countries as diverse as Brazil, India, Italy, Kenya and Yugoslavia conduct programs which highlight the artistic achievements of participants.

Very Special Arts also sponsors a variety of special projects that research, develop and document new initiatives for replication by **Very Special Arts** programs. Current special projects are described on the inside.

**Very Special Arts
Education Office
John F. Kennedy Center
for the Performing Arts
Washington, D.C. 20566**

**VOICE (202) 662-8899
TDD (202) 293-3989**



**VERY
SPECIAL
ARTS**

Enriching the lives of people with disabilities

NATIONAL VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL

1984



**VERY
SPECIAL
ARTS**

Enriching the lives of people with disabilities

on the GREEN

A weekly publication for Gallaudet staff and faculty

January 23, 1984

Vol. 14, No. 14



Participants perform during a regional Very Special Arts Festival. The National Committee Arts With the Handicapped conducts year-round Very Special Arts Festival Programs across the country.

Gallaudet to host arts festival in May

Gallaudet will play a vital role as host for the 1984 National Very Special Arts Festival. During the event, which will be held May 23-26, between 600 and 700 of the participants will be housed on the campus.

The Festival, conducted by the National Committee, Arts with the Handicapped (NCAH) in commemoration of its tenth anniversary, is to be a celebration of disabled and nondisabled children and youth from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Between 700 and 1,000 celebrants are expected to come to Washington, D.C. to share their accomplishments in the visual and performing arts.

Distinguished artists and educators from the United States and abroad will join the children for four days of workshops, demonstrations, performances and art exhibitions. The Festival will provide a showcase for arts programs by, for and with disabled people.

Performances featuring students from two current NCAH projects and collaborations with the Young Playwrights Festival and the Alvin Ailey American

Dance Theater will be presented at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The NCAH is an educational affiliate of the Kennedy Center.

Jean Kennedy Smith serves as the national chairperson for the Very Special Arts Festivals.

18.

**504/SPECIAL
CONSTITUEN-
CIES:**

The National Committee, Arts for the Handicapped, will welcome internationally recognized experts in the field of arts and special education to its International Seminar during the National Very Special Arts Festival, celebrating the Committee's tenth anniversary as the nation's coordinating agency for arts programs for the disabled from May 23-26, 1984 in Washington, D.C. Recognizing the importance of international exchange of information concerning the arts and disabled individuals, NCAH and its founder, Jean Kennedy Smith, hosted an international conference in Vienna, Austria last May. The meeting emphasized the status of arts programs for the handicapped in Europe, and plans for the future. The participants agreed on the need for additional forums exploring this subject. As a result, National Committee, Arts for the Handicapped is now inviting special educators, artists and administrators from nations interested in developing arts programs for the handicapped in Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa. During the National Festival, international representatives will have the opportunity to attend performances by disabled artists, demonstrations in adaptive-techniques, and workshops by world renowned artists such as Ronnie Milsap and Alvin Ailey. The NVSAF is a national showcase for the arts exhibitions created by disabled children from across the United States.

* * *

APR 18 1984

BURRELLE'S

Need Assistance

Rainbow Players Get Ready

1751A

FRONT PAGE

The Rainbow Players of Nora Elementary are making plans for their Washington, D.C. visit May 23-26. The group has been selected by the National Committee, Arts for the Handicapped, to perform C.Q. Glump during the National Very Special Arts Festival.

Since the committee will pay for only 10 members of the group to make the Washington D.C. trip, donations are currently being solicited so that all 13 Rainbow Players, their director Gayle Foy, their teacher Vassie Clark, and teacher's aide Beatrice Lewis can attend.

Arts Unlimited is sponsoring the group and all contributions are tax deductible. Contributions can be made to "Arts Unlimited, Inc.—Rainbow Players Funds" in care of Sue Moreland, director, 1605 East 86th Street, Indianapolis, 46240.



Nancy Bartenbach, parent, applies makeup to the face of Tom Jones during a recent dress rehearsal of C.Q. Glump as Sara Harp pays close attention to the application.



The Rainbow Players of Nora Elementary are preparing for their trip to Washington, D.C. where they will perform in the National Very Special Arts Festival. Members include (front row, left to right) Chris Foy, Brian Bartenbach, Sara Harp, Anika Hampton, (row two) Jason Stieneker, Tom

Jones, Selena Hudson, Micah McCain; (third row) Phyllis Russell, principal, Bea Lewis, Jennifer Stetzel, Paul Mason, Katie Crawford, Nancy McGraw and Vassie Clark, teacher.

—Topics Photos

The Washington Post
WASHINGTON, D. C.
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BURRELLE'S

ANNE'S READER EXCHANGE

Very Special Arts Festival Needs Help

^{1751A}
The National Very Special Arts Festival will take place here in Washington at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, May 23-26.

An educational affiliate of the Kennedy Center, the National Committee, Arts with the Handicapped (NCAH), will bring children and adults from all parts of the country as well as abroad, to the Kennedy Center for four days of arts workshops, demonstrations, performances and various activities.

Anyone who can volunteer day-times, evenings or weekend hours to work with the participants in this national event is welcome as a helper. There are ten categories of volunteers needed during the four-day festival, so whatever your bent, you can surely find a place to help. Volunteer orientation starts May 7, through May 12, so call your area volunteer bureau, the D.C. Volunteer Clearinghouse or the Alexandria Volunteer Bureau. Joan White at the Alexandria bureau, says the need is great, and time is short. Call her at 836-2176 for more information.

In The District

James Lindsay of the Volunteer Clearinghouse of the District of Columbia says that groups interested in volunteering for special events, or visiting nursing homes or helping with community clean-up projects are especially needed now. If your

This ad appeared in the Sunday (5/6) Entertainment section
of THE WASHINGTON POST

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE, ARTS WITH THE HANDICAPPED



an educational affiliate of the
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

**THE NATIONAL
VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL**

Opening Celebration
Concert Hall
Wednesday, May 23, 8 p.m.



RONNIE MILSAP

starring

RONNIE MILSAP
*3-time Grammy Award Winner
in a benefit concert*

and

BONNIE FRANKLIN
star of television and stage

TICKETS \$7-\$12
INSTANT-CHARGE (202) 857-0900
Information (202) 332-6960

The National Festival salutes the artistic accomplishments of
disabled children, youth and adults from across the country.

on the GREEN

A weekly publication for Gallaudet staff & faculty

May 7, 1984

Vol. 14 No. 28

MSSD student wins national competition for playwrighting

Terrylene Theriot, an MSSD junior from Chicago, has won a nationwide competition for playwrighting with her one-act script, "Imagine."

The National Committee, Arts with the Handicapped, co-sponsor of the Integrated Young Playwrights Project, has announced that Theriot's winning play will be produced and performed by professional actors at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on May 25, during the Committee's National Very Special Arts Festival.

The competition, an outgrowth of the Young Playwrights Festival at the Foundation at the Dramatists Guild (the

other sponsor of the project), was open to all youths between the ages of 12 and 18. The scripts were required to address some aspect of disability in contemporary society. "Imagine" is the story of a young deaf girl who convinces a jaded old man that life is worth living.

This was Theriot's first attempt at

playwrighting, although she said, "I always wanted to write a play but I didn't know how to get the words out of my mind."

MSSD drama instructor Tim McCarty helped her put her thoughts on paper.

Theriot has been very active in the performing arts at MSSD and was the school's Miss Junior NAD this year.

The Stars and Stripes

The Veteran's Voice

"To Care For Them Who Have Borne The Battle And For His Widow And His Orphan"
Abraham Lincoln

THE ONLY NATIONAL VETERANS' NEWSPAPER

NUMBER 17

WASHINGTON, DC, THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1984

76¢ PER COPY

Washington R&R

Arts For The Handicapped & Others

The capital's May landscape is patterned with the bright hues of spring flowers. Over at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts a group of handicapped artists are painting the stage with their own chorus of colors.

An International Festival of Arts for the Handicapped is an annual attraction of the Kennedy Center which brings together an array of high quality artists in a wide range of disciplines. For these young artists, pursuit of an artistic avocation requires exceptional effort. And the results are well worth attending. The Festival runs Wed., May 23 through Sat., May 26.

Ronnie Milsap, country-western singer, provides an opening night concert (admission \$7-12) for the public and the hundreds of handicapped artists who have traveled to Washington from around the globe.



All day Friday May 25, the public is invited to over 60 free workshops in arts for the handicapped conducted by some of the leading artists in their profession. Mikel, a Polish mime will hold forth, while Jaime Wythe shares his craft. Leslie Orr will teach techniques in handicapped artistry, an Israeli folk dance team of handicapped youth perform and the list goes on.

Chaired by Jean Smith, the Kennedy Center's Arts for the Handicapped Program is an inspiration to all "abled-bodied" who do far less with their total faculties.

The Kennedy Center is located at 2700 F St., N.W. For information telephone (202) 332-6960. ★

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USA TODAY

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PEOPLE

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE FAMOUS AND THE FASCINATING

THE NATION'S NEWSPAPER

USA TODAY LIFE

VIA SATELLITE

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 1984

Very Special Arts Festival

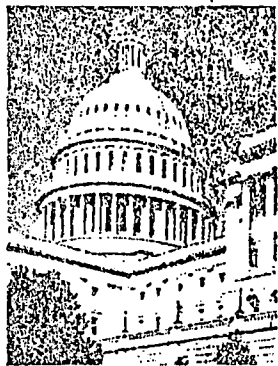
Nancy Reagan, Ted Kennedy, Jean Kennedy Smith, Ronnie Milsap, Burl Ives, Jamie Wyeth, Edward Villella, Blackstone the Magician, Andy Warhol and others will lend a hand to the National Very Special Arts Festival, May 23-26 in Washington, D.C.

More than 750 disabled children and adults from around the globe will gather to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the National Committee, Arts With the Handicapped.

Festival activities include: a Kennedy Center performance with Milsap; a luncheon with Kennedy delivering opening remarks; and a performance and reception on the White House lawn with Mrs. Reagan as host and Tony Randall as emcee.

Wyeth, Warhol, Villella and others will conduct workshops for children.

Arts With The Handicapped: A Decade Of Dreaming And Doing



One Louisiana 18-year-old is studying in France with the world-renowned mime, Marcel Marceau. Another youth is dancing at the famed Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York.

Both would be major accomplishments for any teenager. But this mime actor is deaf and the dancer is blind, and they represent over 500,000 handicapped Americans who are actively involved in the arts through the National Committee, Arts with the Handicapped (NCAH).



A very special artist intent on her creation.

An educational affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the National Committee will commemorate its 10th anniversary this year.

In celebration, a National Very Special Arts Festival will be held at the Kennedy Center from May 23-26 to showcase the accomplishments of handicapped children, youth and adults.

The National Committee has experienced rapid growth in its first 10 years. Jean Kennedy Smith is the founder of NCAH.

She was the first chairperson and continues to play a central role, as chairperson of the Very Special Arts Festival Program and as a NCAH board member.

The National Committee was formed in 1974 through funding from the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation, the U.S. Department

of Education and the Alliance for Arts Education, which saw the potential of integrating the arts into the education of the handicapped. NCAH receives support from both Federal and private sources.

This year's National Very Special Arts Festival in Washington, DC will attract many celebrities. At the first major festival at the Kennedy Center in 1979, such notable artists as Burl Ives, Andy Warhol and Jamie Wyeth played large roles.

This year, they are scheduled to be joined by Alvin Ailey, Ronnie Milsap and many others.

This year's National Very special Arts Festival will highlight the Integrated Young Playwright's Project, co-sponsored by NCAH and the Young Playwright's Festival of the Dramatists' Guild.

The National Committee invited disabled and non-disabled students, ages 12-18, from around the country to write scripts addressing an aspect of disability in contemporary society, and several have been selected for performing during the Festival.

A series of workshops with theater professionals took place throughout the year to introduce students to the art form of play writing, and it is planned to be an ongoing project.

Another key event at the Festival will be the debut of the NCAH/Alvin Ailey Dance Project for the Blind and Visually-Impaired. Alvin Ailey supervised the performance specifically for the



Ronnie Milsap, Country Music Star.

WASHINGTON, DC
STARS AND STRIPES
WEEKLY

MAY 17 1984
BURRELLE'S

2

occasion, and 11 visually-impaired and blind students will show that sight is not essential to inspiring dance as they perform on the Kennedy Center stage.

During the past decade, each state has developed its own Very Special Arts Programs, with over 440 local art festivals for the handicapped held annually. It is estimated by the National Organization on Disability that 35 million Americans have significant disabilities.

The National Committee also has recently opened an office in The Hague, Netherlands, as part of its expanding international horizons.

This year to coincide with the See Arts With Handicapped, Pg. 11

Arts With The Handicapped

From Pg.

Festival, an International Seminar on Arts and the Handicapped will be held in cooperation with the Organization of American States. Educators and artists from over 50 countries, from China to Tobago, will attend to share and exchange knowledge of arts programs.

Closer to home, the National Committee has joined with the American Federation of Teachers to form Project REAP (Retirement with Enrichment, the Arts and Purpose). Project REAP taps the rich and varied talents of retired educators and other members of the community and trains them to provide arts activities for disabled children.

The model project has been initiated during the last two years in five major American cities: New York, Chicago, Miami, Los Angeles and Washington, DC. Led by Bebe Bernstein, National Coordinator of Project REAP, retired volunteers are a vital part of the National Very special Arts Festival—stressing the significant contributions that retired persons can make to the world of arts for disabled people.

One of the most unusual NCAH programs for the visually-impaired is currently being developed by sculptor Robert Berks, whose

works include the monumental head of John F. Kennedy in the foyer of the Kennedy Center and one of Albert Einstein on the grounds of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC. A traveling exhibition entitled "Touch and Be Touched" will include about 30 of Berks' bronze sculptures. The blind will have the chance to learn the visual arts through touch, thereby extending their skills and perceptions.

To accompany the new exhibition, the artist will provide a recorded narration, first explaining how best to "read" a sculptured portrait through touch, then guiding the visitor through a personalized tour of his works on display.

Sculptures of Martin Luther King, Jr., Ernest Hemingway and Robert Kennedy will make "Touch and Be Touched" a lesson in history as well as in art.

A decade ago, the National Committee, Arts with the Handicapped recognized that disabled individuals have much to teach the rest of society. As the organization enters its 10th anniversary year, it can look back with satisfaction upon the programs it has instituted to make this exchange of experience possible. ★

on the GREEN

A weekly publication for Gallaudet staff and faculty

NCAH

MAY 22 1984

RECEIVED

May 21, 1984

Vol. 14 No. 30

Festival brings participants to campus

Some 700 participants in the National Very Special Arts Festival (VSAF) will begin arriving on campus this week as the National Committee, Arts with the Handicapped (NCAH) conducts the Festival in Washington, D.C. May 23-26.

Gallaudet will host more than 700 disabled children and youth from all 50 states and more than 60 countries during the Festival, which commemorates the tenth anniversary of the NCAH. The event is a celebration of artistic works by disabled and non-disabled children and youth.

Between 700 and 1,000 celebrants are expected to come to Washington, D.C. to share their accomplishments in the visual and performing arts. The Festival will feature four days of performances, arts exhibits and workshops at the Kennedy Center.

In addition to serving as the host

site, Gallaudet will be represented at the Festival itself. The Gallaudet Dancers will perform and conduct a workshop for Festival participants. The group will perform at both an international luncheon/reception at noon on Wednesday, May 23 at the Organization of American States and at a White House reception at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, May 24.

Two KDES students, Brian Morris and Raychelle Harris, are representing the District of Columbia at the Festival. MSSD students will perform at the 10:30 a.m. press conference at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on Wednesday, May 23 and at a special performance of "Godspell" at MSSD on Friday, May 25.

A play written by MSSD junior Terylene Theriot will be produced and performed by professional actors at the Kennedy Center on Friday, May 25. Victoria Brown Clayman, instructor in the Theatre Arts Department, will direct the play. Theriot won a national competition in playwrighting for her one-act script, "Imagine," a story of a young deaf girl who convinces a jaded old man that life is worth living.

The Festival will kick-off Wednesday morning with a press conference. At that time, both national and international Festival participants will be registering on campus, where they will be housed at Benson, Clerc, Carlin and Cogswell halls.

Campus tours are scheduled for Festival coordinators and guests and district school representatives from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday. International dignitaries will tour campus from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday.

Breakfast each morning and dinner each evening will be served in three shifts in the campus Dining Hall.

On Thursday evening, a dinner
continued on page 2

Festival participants arrive this week

continued from page 1

dance will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Field House. Room 116 of the Field House will be used as a check-in room for children's belongings. The small classroom at the end of the hallway will serve as the first aid/rest area and will contain two cots and several chairs. The large classroom will serve as a reception area for VIPs and international guests attending the dance.

Before the dance begins, the vinyl floor covering the Field House floor from graduation will be examined for safety and accessibility to wheelchairs. Should the covering be removed, all persons attending the dance will be required to store their shoes in the check room before entering the gym.

On Friday, the MSSD production of "Godspell" will be performed at the MSSD auditorium. The performance will begin at 8 p.m.

A closing ceremony will be held Saturday, May 26 at Elstad Auditorium. The ceremony will be held from 9

to 10:00 a.m. and will feature performances by three Festival participants and the Washington, D.C. Police Department Band. Certificates will also be presented at this time.

The Mayor's Special Events Task Force has set up a command post at Gallaudet during the Arts Festival. The Command Post will operate 24 hours a day and will handle any emergency situations that may arise among the Festival participants housed on campus. The phone number for the Command Post is x5775.

Until Friday, May 25 at 5 p.m., all medical emergencies involving Festival participants will be handled by staffers at the Gallaudet Infirmary. After that time, emergency situations will be handled through the Communications Center by medical personnel available through the city's Commission on Public Health.

For further information about the Very Special Arts Festival, contact the Festival campus office, 409 Benson, at x5699.



Artist Jamie Wyeth created this poster celebrating the National Very Special Arts Festival and the tenth anniversary of the National Committee, Arts with the Handicapped.

MAY 21 1984

BURRELLE'S

Wheelchair doesn't dampen spirit of 15-year-old S.D. songwriter

1751A
RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Ben Wicks' eyes twinkled as he talked about his upcoming trip to Washington, D.C.

Thursday, the 15-year-old Rapid City boy will represent South Dakota at a national arts festival with the songs he has written. If he's lucky, he will hear singer Ronny Milsap perform one of his songs, and he will sing for other youngsters gathered for the National Very Special Arts Festival.

"I have no idea what I'll sing," Ben said recently. "I wrote one song, lyrics and music, but that one is personal for now. I wrote lyrics to the theme of Young and Restless. We sent five or six songs in on a tape."

Ben is paralyzed due to a genetic disorder of the nervous system called neurofibromatosis.

It started slowly nearly three years ago, with occasional stumbling and falling. Exploratory surgery discovered tumors growing on Ben's spine which can't be removed. They

were malignant.

Ben soon found it impossible to manage a crutch and an armload of books at a Rapid City junior high school. By Christmas, he was on the Homebound program. By the time school was out, he was in a wheelchair.

There isn't a cure for neurofibromatosis, and there's no way to stop the growth of the tumors. "The only feeling I have left is in my face," Ben said.

He has enough control of one hand to guide his wheelchair.

He now attends the Crippled Children's Hospital and School in Sioux Falls.

Ben takes a lighthearted attitude toward his condition. He refers to himself as "out of order," not crippled or handicapped. He talks about his problems knowledgeably, and his stories of life at the Crippled Children's Hospital and School are full of friends and humor.

"We live in dormitories. On the floor I'm on, there are eight rooms,

four for girls and four for boys, with four kids in each room. Boys are not supposed to be in the girls' rooms after 10 at night. I found out the hard way," he grinned.

"I'm in the eighth or ninth grade. You get placed in classes as you progress, so I spend part time in each," Ben said.

Kids can stay at the school until they turn 21. But Ben doesn't talk about the future much beyond the trip to Washington.

With the encouragement of music therapist Cherie Ortman, Ben began to compose his own songs. "She helps me a little with the words and music," Ben said. "She picks out chords on the guitar. She'd strum, and I'd pick a chord. She writes it down. Then we put it all together."

The songs were good enough to earn him the trip to Washington, which includes breakfast on Capitol Hill with members of Congress, lunch on the White House lawn, performances at the Kennedy Center and workshops with the stars.

His dark eyes sparkle when he talks about it, but, like any teenager, he tries to play it cool. With the small but eloquent shrug he can still manage, Ben said, "The music is OK. It's just something I do in my spare time, when I'm not chasing girls."

MAY 23 1984

BURRELLE'S

Arts Beat

VERY SPECIAL: The National Committee, Arts for the Handicapped marks its 10th anniversary tonight with the opening of the National Very Special Arts Festival, featuring programs for more than 750 disabled children from the United States and abroad visiting the Kennedy Center and Gallaudet College. The NCAH is an educational affiliate of the Kennedy Center.

A fireworks display over the Potomac caps tonight's gala opening program at the Terrace Theater, which includes performances by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre Project for the Blind, Blackstone the Magician and blind country singer Ronnie Milsap. The week also includes a visit from "The Little Ambassadors of Shanghai," 27 singers, dancers and musicians ages 7 to 16, the first children's performing arts group from the People's Republic of China ever to tour the United States.

On Friday, 17-year-old Terrylene Theriot, a student at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf at Gallaudet College, will see her one-act play, "Imagine," presented at the Terrace Theater, with a cast that features actor George Segal. Theriot's play is the first place winner of a new NCAH/Dramatist Guild writing program.

Also scheduled for Friday is a group of workshops with guest artists Edward Vilella, Andy Warhol and Jamie Wyeth, who painted this year's festival poster.



Poster for the NCAH festival

day is a group of workshops with guest artists Edward Vilella, Andy Warhol and Jamie Wyeth, who painted this year's festival poster.

MAY 23 1984
BURRELLE'S

1751A Presidential Documents

Proclamation 5196 of May 20, 1984

National Arts With the Handicapped Week, 1984

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Art flows from and nourishes the human spirit. Through art, we learn to understand ourselves and our potential. For disabled people, the creative experience—whether as artists, audiences, educators, or students—is an essential part of leading a full and productive life. It is an important means for the disabled to be integrated into the mainstream of educational and cultural programs as well.

Therefore, it is critical that our cultural institutions, educators, and communities strive to assure that disabled people can participate fully in the arts. The National Committee Arts with the Handicapped, an educational affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, is dedicated to extending opportunities for such participation. It conducts education programs in all fifty States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Funded by both the public and private sectors, the Committee is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. To mark this achievement, the Committee is sponsoring a very special arts festival during the week of May 20, 1984, in Washington, District of Columbia.

In recognition of the importance of the arts in enriching the lives of disabled persons and in celebration of the work of the National Committee Arts with the Handicapped, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 220, has designated the week of May 20, 1984, as "National Arts with the Handicapped Week" and authorized and requested the President to issue an appropriate proclamation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of May 20, 1984, through May 26, 1984, as National Arts with the Handicapped Week. I encourage the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

Ronald Reagan

WASHINGTON, D.C.
THE WASHINGTON TIMES
DAILY

MAY 24 1984

BURRELLE'S

ARTS NOTES

Broadway during the Truman years

“There have been so many scholarly examinations of the Truman presidency that we wanted to add Broadway’s view,” says Michael Montel, the director of “Hello, Harry!,” a look at musical theater during the Truman years. The revue will be presented in the Baird Auditorium of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History Friday evening, June 1, and Saturday afternoon and evening, June 2.

According to Mr. Montel, the Truman years were a golden time on Broadway. Asked why, he reels off a list of shows that will be included in his retrospective entertainment — “Carousel,” “Annie Get Your Gun,” “Guys and Dolls,” “One Touch of Venus,” “Bloomer Girl,” “Finian’s Rainbow” and “Call Me Mister.” The revue’s title is taken from Ethel Merman’s brassy telephone calls to the president in this last show.

Musicals tell a great deal about the times in which they were created, Mr. Montel believes.

“Today there is a more serious respect for the musical theater, as one of our true native art forms,” he says. Musicals have been underrated in the past, he thinks, because they were so commercially successful. “Now that the money has gotten tighter and musicals have to fight for survival, they’re more respectable.”

Performing in “Hello, Harry!” will be Judith Blazer, familiar to Smithsonian audiences from past shows and from her appearances on TV’s “As the World Turns.”

Another face that soap opera fans will know is Larry Campbell, seen on “The Doctors.” Also starring will be Maureen Brennan, last seen locally in “Little Johnny Jones,” and Stephen Lehw, featured in the Broadway revival of “Brigadoon,” another Truman-era musical.

Tickets to “Hello, Harry!” are \$10 for Smithsonian Resident Associates and \$12 for non-

members. For information and reservations, call 357-3030.

Arts festival honors role of handicapped

The National Very Special Arts Festival, sponsored by the National Committee on Arts with the Handicapped, opened last night at the Kennedy Center and continues through Sunday. Activities continue through the weekend at the Kennedy Center, Gallaudet College, the Organization of American States building and the White House, where such artists as Alvin Ailey, Burl Ives, Bonnie Franklin, Ronnie Milsap and Andy Warhol celebrate the achievements of the handicapped in the arts.

Tomorrow at various locations throughout the Kennedy Center, participants from all 50 states will present programs in the visual arts, dance, song, mime and drama, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Festival activities are open to the general public, free of charge.

MAY 24 1984

BURRELLE'S



Ronnie Milsap

By James A. Parcell—The Washington Post

Milsap's Country Mile

A Long Way From Carolina, the Blind Singer Looks Back

Very Special
By Paul Hendrickson

Ronnie Milsap has been blind since birth and wealthy since "Pure Love." Who could forget that spine-shivering, plaintive, Carolina-mountain-boy voice coming over the airwaves for the first time, in 1974, singing, no, moving the people, not to say the competition, right off the radio? Ronnie wasn't long out of the State School for the Blind in Raleigh then, and suddenly he seemed 99 and 44/100ths percent pure gift. Megasellers like "I'm a Stand-by-My-Woman Man" or "Daydreams About Night Things (in the Middle of the Afternoon)" were soon to create their own rocket rides.

So here he is, a decade later, rich as Croesus, with three Grammys and 25 No. 1 hits and who knows how many other Country Music Association awards in his pocket, standing in a room at the Kennedy Center. Is he happy? Who could really say, even Ronnie? "Sometimes there's just no time," he says quietly.

Is he perspiring? You bet. Oodles of sweat noodles are everywhere about him—beading on his nose, rolling down his ears, sending small streams into mighty rivers that run out at the cracks of his lips.

His huge, dark glasses are studded in both lenses with a glittery but tasteful little "RM." You got some dough, why not wear it? The blue suede coat and the violet shirt and the big gold monogrammed belt buckle aren't bad, either.

His right eye isn't real. Surgeons at Duke University Medical Center took it out four years ago. The news came over the wires that Ronnie was awake and joking all during the 105-minute operation.

Fame always has its brutal costs, and one of them is that you don't own yourself anymore. Somebody named Tom is trying to fluff up Ronnie's down-to-the-nape hair, which has gone limp under all this unexpected May humidity and an air conditioner on

See MILSAP, D3, Col. 1

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MAY 25 1984

BURRELLE'S



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A good sign

^{175A} Performers from the Gallaudet Dance Company at the Gallaudet School for the Deaf talked in sign language to Nancy Reagan at a reception yesterday in Washington. The reception was connected to the Very Special Arts Festival for the handicapped.

United Press Int'l
"A" WIRE
NEW YORK, N.Y.
DAILY

MAY 25 1984

ROOKIE'S PLAY GET STAR
TREATMENT: ONE OF THE 750
HANDICAPPED KIDS PARTICIPATING
IN THE VERY SPECIAL ARTS
FESTIVAL AT THE KENNEDY CENTER
HAD A DREAM COME TRUE,
TERRYLENE THERIOT, 17, A DEAF
STUDENT AT THE MODEL SECONDARY
SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AT
GALLAUDET COLLEGE IN WASHING-
TON, D.C., WROTE A PLAY CALLED
'IMAGINE' THAT WON THE FIRST
NCAH (NATIONAL ARTS WITH THE
HANDICAPPED) DRAMATICIST
GUILD PLAYWRITING COMPETITION.
AS A BONUS, HER PLAY PREMIERES
FRIDAY AT THE KENNEDY CENTER
AND FEATURES A SPECIAL GUEST
STAR PERFORMANCE BY ACTOR
GEORGE SEGAL. THE PLOT LINE
PAIRS A YOUNG DISABLED GIRL,
ELISSA, WHO BEFRIENDS A 40-YEAR-
OLD CONVICT, VILLI, PLAYED BY
SEGAL. JEAN KENNEDY SMITH IS
NATIONAL CHAIRWOMAN OF THE ARTS
FESTIVAL, WHICH FEATURES FOUR
DAYS OF PERFORMANCES, WORK-
SHOPS AND EXHIBITIONS BY AND
FOR DISABLED YOUNGSTERS.

MAY 25 1984

BURRELLE'S

By John Sherwood
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

With what seems like a terrific effort, the words come pumping out: "What I've seen is... incredible!"

Laureen Summers, handicapped from birth by cerebral palsy and now a D.C. counselor to the handicapped, is stating what to her has become the obvious. Participation in the arts can, indeed, produce wonders for the disabled.

But if you want to see for yourself, visit the Kennedy Center between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. today, when more than 750 special youngsters from around the world will present programs in the visual arts in the 10th annual National Very Special Arts Festival.

Mrs. Summers, a 36-year-old Takoma Park mother of a 5-month-old daughter, will be there working her loom and offering her woven products for sale. "I'm excellent with the color," she says, "although I'm still a bit crooked with the edges."

The somewhat feisty and independent Mrs. Summers cringes when a visitor calls her "a victim" of her disabling disorder. As a "peer counseling coordinator" with

see ARTS, page 2B **D**

ARTS

From page 1B

the District of Columbia Services for Independent Living, she currently works with 20 handicapped persons ranging between the ages of 18 and 60.

"A lot of them have given up when they first come to us," she explains. "They've been told so often — even by their own parents! — what they *cannot* do. They've had to deal with schools that focus on therapy, not skills. They've been told that they're nothing, forget it, go make brooms somewhere."

A flash of anger overcomes her face: "How would you feel if you were constantly told things like that? What would it do to your self-confidence? Every human being is creative, if only given the chance.

"Working with the arts," she adds, "they are doing something they want to do, not something they have to do. Once they get involved, they gain confidence and will go on to other things. The arts are the

basis for everything else that follows."

The enthusiastic Mrs. Summers recalls how she dealt with her own handicap: "I was not allowed by my parents to be discouraged. They were Bohemian artists living in Greenwich Village at the time and I just fell into art because I was around it all the time."

What seemed to come naturally to Mrs. Summers — who also works with The National Committee, Arts for the Handicapped, an educational affiliate of the Kennedy Center — is now what she tries to impart to her support group.

"Without the arts in their lives, they would just sit home and watch TV or roam the streets," she says. "Sadly, some give up and leave. Mostly the younger people, oddly enough, although I don't know why this is so. When they drop out, I wonder what I'm doing wrong."

Celebrity guests scheduled to participate in today's workshops include Ronnie Milsap, Jamie Wyeth, Andy Warhol, Edward Vilella, Burl Ives, Alvin Ailey, Blackstone the Magician, Geri Jewell, the United Street Force

with Eddie Fernandez, and many others.

Also appearing throughout the Kennedy Center are The Marlton Sign Company, a group of deaf and hard-of-hearing California students who will present a multimedia show entitled "Cats;" a band of mentally retarded children from Colorado doing a "Go Hawaiian" number; and a troupe of mentally handicapped Kentucky students presenting a dance program.

The festival was opened Wednesday morning at the Kennedy Center by Jean Kennedy Smith, founder of the committee. A luncheon and all-day workshop at the Organization of American States, whose participants included Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., was followed by an evening dinner, concert and fireworks display at the Kennedy Center that was co-sponsored by the Omega Watch Corp.

Yesterday, Nancy Reagan and Tony Randall hosted a White House lawn performance and party, followed by a dinner dance at Galaudet College, where many of the participants have been staying until the festival ends tomorrow.

MAY 30 1984

BURRELLE'S

Very Special youngsters at festival for disabled

The first row of seats for a sold-out evening at the Kennedy Center that featured singer Ronnie Milap, actresses Bonnie Franklin and Marian Ross, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and his son Teddy, were left mostly empty.

The velvet chairs were unneeded by the young, very special guests attending the opening gala for the National Committee, Arts with the Handicapped (NCAH) Very Special Arts Festival. They were in their own wheelchairs.

The blind, the deaf, the mute, the mentally retarded youths from across the nation had shared a three-day festival of perfor-

mances, workshops and demonstrations with non-handicapped youths and adults at the Kennedy Center.

A poignant moment during last Wednesday's gala came seconds after Sen. Kennedy told the children sitting in the first few rows that they possessed the one quality his brother, President John Kennedy, and the writer Ernest Hemingway admired most: courage.

"They admired the quality of courage because they thought without that quality no others were possible," he said, before introducing a "young boy who faced adversity and advantage

R.S.V.P.

The Week In Society. Compiled by Lisa McCormack



Photo by Kevin T. Gilbert/The Washington Times

"Happy Days" star Marian Ross reacts to the fireworks exploding over the Kennedy Center at a reception for the Very Special Arts Festival.

with equal courage. He really is an epitome of what President Kennedy talked about in 'Profiles of Courage.' He's President Kennedy's nephew and my son, Teddy.

Then the younger Mr. Kennedy spoke in a strong and confident voice:

"To succeed in one thing," said the handsome, curly-haired 23-year-old, standing alone on the stage, "it makes one able to transcend any difficulty in life. We are celebrating ability, not disability tonight. I reject the term handicapped."

He then walked off stage where he shook the hand of his father, who then embraced him in a hug and stepped back to applaud him. Eleven years ago, Edward Kennedy Jr. lost his right leg to bone cancer.

The fireworks after the performance and before the reception were courtesy of Phyllis Wyeth, wife of painter Jamie Wyeth. "Bill Lyman [pyrotechnic coordinator for the Garden State Fireworks, The Santore Bros. company] is a good friend of my husband's. He asked me if he could do the fireworks for my birthday. I said, 'No, instead could you do them for my kids?'" Mrs. Wyeth, crippled in a car accident many years ago, has been working for the NCAH for the past eight years.

"We feel that the arts are another dimension, another way of communicating with these children," explained Jean Kennedy Smith, who founded NCAH. "It's particularly important because they feel isolated. They need a feeling of becoming part of the mainstream.

"Plus, they learn self-respect, self-confidence because they can create things." — Lisa McCormack

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ THE ★ ★ ★
GEORGETOWNER

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MAY 18-MAY 21, 1984

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Were Here To
A National Very Special Arts



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THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE,
ARTS FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

an educational affiliate of the
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

upon the occasion of its
10th Anniversary Celebration and the
NATIONAL VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL
May 23-26
at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.



POTOMAC CHILDREN

Vol. I, No. 3

May 1984

Along the Potomac . . . in May

23

Wednesday

National Very Special Arts Festival. May 23-26. Disabled children, youth and adults will display their accomplishments in the visual and performing arts at the Kennedy Center and other locations around the city. The National Committee, Arts for the Handicapped. For information call 332-6960, TTD 293-3989.

JUN 2 1984

BURRELLE'S

ANNE'S READER EXCHANGE

Even in Summer, The Homeless Need Shelter

And what of the homeless in summer? Are they only a seasonal concern?

The Coalition for the Homeless reports that there is a general perception that the homeless need no shelter or support services during the summer months, but that this simply is not true. This misperception causes some serious financial problems for the coalition, and manpower shortages for its services.

Volunteers are urgently needed to work in the office of the Coalition for the Homeless, at 1419 V St. NW. There are various jobs open — general office assistance, informing the public on shelters and available support services, collecting data service providers, writing and researching material for papers. Call Linda Stewart at 328-1184.

To raise some immediate cash for the coalition, volunteers will hold a fund-raising car wash, Saturday, June 23, at 10 a.m., at St. Paul's and Augustine Church, 15th and V Streets NW.

The coalition has been active in helping to establish overnight shelters and programs for homeless men, women and families during the day; has testified at District budget hearings as to the need for continuing city-operated shelters and city funding for private shelters; has built an advocacy network of community groups, church congregations and in-

dividuals to act on issues affecting the homeless; has worked with the D.C. Mental Health Administration to provide training and support for shelter staff, and has performed many other advocacy duties.

If you would like to be a contact person for the coalition in your community or church, volunteers are needed for the network and outreach program. Congregations, business groups or other organizations can join the coalition, as can individuals. For more information on the types of membership which help support the coalition, write to the office at 1419 V St. NW, Room 303, Washington, D.C. 20009.

Flea Market

St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home will be the beneficiary of a flea market to be held today, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 4901 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville. The Seton Guild, a support volunteer service for the home, will offer a variety of handmade items, attic treasures, bakery goods, as well as lunch. Admission is free and so is parking.

Homeless Children

Arlington may be a high-rent district, as they say, like so many of our suburban areas, but the Social Services Division faces many typical metropolitan problems — such as abandoned or homeless children who need foster care.

The division can outline a variety of instances in which children become homeless and in need of temporary care, and the staff has developed a foster care service, for which single or married persons can volunteer.

Foster parents are offered a monthly board rate to cover the basic child care costs, as well as medical and bill payments. There are in-service training and support groups for those who volunteer, and volunteers may be single or married, employed outside the home, or not.

If you would like to offer this invaluable service, call 558-2131 for details.

Arts Festival

Today is the second day of Reach for the Stars, the Very Special Arts Festival, at the Reston Community Center, designed to integrate the handicapped and non-handicapped, young and old, through the arts experience.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., there will be a full program of activities, as well as entertainment, and admission is free. The center is at Hunters Woods Plaza. Call 703/476-4500.

Summer Scene

Teens 13 to 17 are invited to become summer volunteers with the Fairfax County Chapter of the American Red Cross. The teen volunteer service has a variety of jobs available, to suit your taste and interest. To set up an appointment for an interview, or to check out the job list, call the Office of Volunteers at 591-8091.

Summer Homes

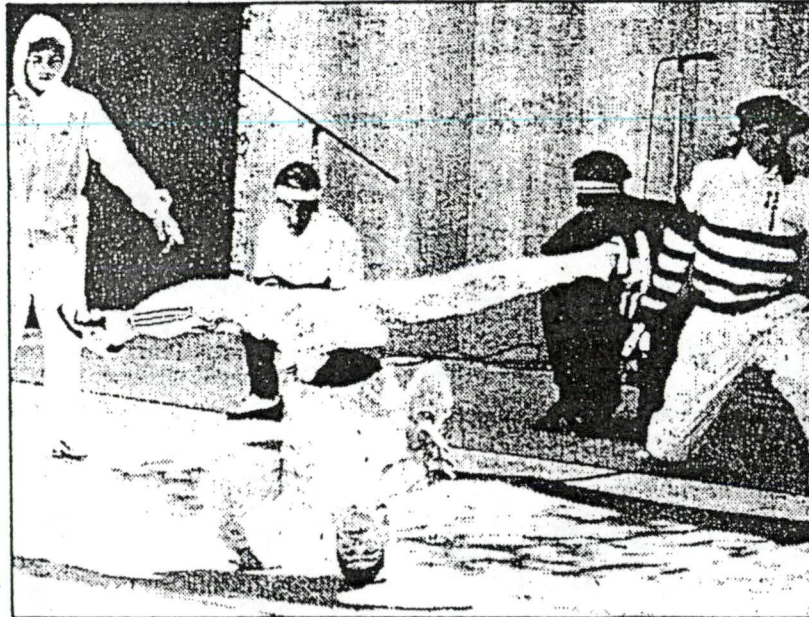
The Foreign Student Service Council is again looking for housing space for the foreign students and teachers who flood the metropolitan area in the summer months. If you have a spare room in your home or apartment and would like to rent it, or offer it in exchange for service, call 232-4979 for details.

Newsmakers

Handicapped Children Footloose on White House Lawn

—Nancy Reagan, playing hostess to a star-studded afternoon gala on the White House lawn in honor of handicapped children in the arts, told the 700 youngsters, "There really is nothing that's impossible." Her comment came after a spectacular finale of break dancing by cast members of the movie "Breakin'," starring Eddie (Handyman) Fernandez, a partially paralyzed youth who threw away his metal crutches and spun around the South Lawn stage on his head like a dervish. An earlier act featured deaf dancers from Washington, D.C.'s, Gallaudet College who performed to a disco beat. "My head hurt a little bit a few times, but you're great," the First Lady told the performers, who included magician Harry Blackstone Jr., actress Bonnie Franklin, folk singer Burl Ives and actors George Segal and Tony Randall. The handicapped children, some of whom are performers, were in Washington for a festival for the 10th anniversary of the National Committee Arts for the Handicapped, founded by Jean Kennedy Smith, sister of the late President John F. Kennedy.

—Retired Adm. Hyman G. Rick-



BERNIE BOSTON / Los Angeles Times

Eddie (Handyman) Fernandez takes a spin at the White House.

over announced that 54 American high school students and five from Israel will be given a chance this summer to learn mathematics and science from distinguished teachers

and scientists. "These will be outstanding future research scientists and engineers," Rickover said. "They will return to their home schools as role models." The stu-

dents will study at the Xerox International Center for Training and Management Development in Leesburg, Va. The program is sponsored by the Admiral H.G. Rickover Foundation.

—Cincinnati's newest celebrity, on a one-month loan from San Diego, arrived sleepy-eyed, struggled to stay awake during a brief news conference, then settled in at a special glass-enclosed home that includes all the "bear" necessities—a shower, personal tree and a refrigerator full of eucalyptus leaves. "They wake up and they go back to sleep," koala keeper Valerie Thompson told the news media. "That's pretty much it." Zoo spokeswoman Carleen Kearns said Wait the koala, in town from the San Diego Zoo to help out a drive by the Cincinnati Zoo for its Animal Conservation Fund, has fresh eucalyptus leaves flown in every three days. Because of them, "He smells like a cough drop," she said. Other social events include a black-tie dinner, where benefactors can get their pictures taken with Wait for \$1,000 each.

—JENNINGS PARROTT



Actor George Segal shares a happy moment with deaf playwright Terrylene Theriot, 17, of Chicago, Ill., in the lobby of the Kennedy Center in Washington. Terrylene's

prize-winning play was chosen to be performed by Segal during the center's National Very Special Arts Festival which ended Saturday. (AP Laserphoto)

Deaf teen-age girl writes winning play

By ROBERT M. ANDREWS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Not only is Terrylene Theriot a flashy dancer, but her very first effort as a playwright won first prize in a nationwide competition and received its world premiere at the Kennedy Center last week, starring actor George Segal.

Before all the hard-luck chorus girls and dramatists of this world begin weeping with envy, it must be said that Terrylene, a 17-year-old high school junior, has been deaf since birth.

But her eyes shine with so many bright dreams — and the pluck to make them come true — that her triumph at the Kennedy Center's National Very Special Arts Festival for the handicapped, which ended Saturday, seems only a foretaste of things to come.

Actually, she says, her words tumbling out excitedly in sign language, "I wanted to be a singer, but I really couldn't do that, so I decided to be a dancer."

ONE OF FIVE children born to a poor couple in Chicago — the entire family is deaf — Terrylene was about 4 when she was struck by the beauty of a woman dancing on television. "I ran and got my mother," she said. "She turned the volume up loud and I suddenly realized that music went with it."

She invented dance steps before the mirror in her room, humming her own music in her head. Her parents couldn't afford dancing lessons. She did not attend her first formal dance class until last summer, paid for with money saved from her allowance.

When volume is turned up to high levels, Terrylene is able to pick up music rhythms.

At a news conference opening the four-day arts festival, Terrylene vamped her way through a chorus from "Godspell" with her fellow students from the Model Secondary School for the Deaf, a federally financed high school on the campus of Gallaudet College in Washington.

TWO DAYS LATER, 750 handicapped and non-disabled children and teen-agers from every state and several foreign countries entertained audiences throughout the Kennedy

Center with song, dance, drama, mime, handbells and poetry. Demonstration workshops were held by such professionals as actress Gwe Verdon, sculptor Robert Berks, artist Jamie Wyeth and an Alvin Ailey dance troupe.

The festival was sponsored by the National Committee, Arts for the Handicapped, an educational affiliate of the center founded 10 years ago by Jean Kennedy Smith, sister of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

"The arts should be open to a people," Smith said in an interview. "This festival gives the handicapped who have a very debilitating dependence on other people, the feeling that they can create something beautiful as worthwhile on their own, which enhances their lives and gives the confidence."

As winner of the festival's young playwrights competition from among 53 entrants nationwide, Terrylene saw her first play, a one-act drama entitled "Imagine," performed on stage by Segal and three other professional actors.

SHE WROTE THE play last fall in her dormitory room, drawing on ideas that grew out of her former pen-pal relationship with a Texas prison inmate about twice her age.

"Imagine" is the story of the budding friendship between a prisoner and a deaf girl, his emotional isolation and her lack of confidence, and how they help each other break through their self-imposed barriers.

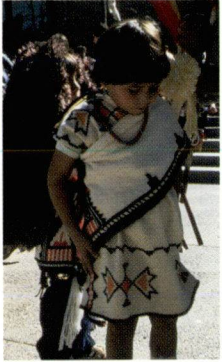
"When they meet in the prisoners' room," says Terrylene, "he helps her build self-confidence, and she helps him think more positively about his life, to believe that life is worth living."

Terrylene has never met her real-life Texas correspondent. In fact, she recently stopped writing him, at the urging of friends and relatives who said it was too dangerous.

But when they began exchanging letters, she told the prisoner that life was meant to be filled with "happiness, sharing, honesty and kindness." He wrote back to say no, that life was pointless and boring.

SHE GOT ANGRY, and got the idea for the play.

"He doesn't know what's happening to me now, but he will," she said. "I plan to send him a copy of the script."



VERY
SPECIAL
ARTS



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**Very Special Arts
U.S.A. Month, 1985**



**A Proclamation
By the President of
the United States
of America**

Art is one of the most important forms of human expression. Whether as creators or as spectators, Americans participate in the arts in some form almost every day, and their lives are made richer by this activity. Art also brings us into contact with the rich aesthetic tradition of our civilization, while the art of other cultures can be one of the best introductions available for those who want to learn more about them.

The importance of art makes it essential that all Americans be able to make use of this unique resource. The National Committee, Arts with the Handicapped, is an educational affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. During the past eleven years, it has served as the coordinating agency for arts programs for disabled children, youth, and adults. The Very Special Arts Program that it sponsors provides ongoing arts programs for many Americans with disabilities.

The Very Special Arts Program makes it possible for disabled Americans to participate in the arts and enrich their lives in the same way as all other Americans. Through it, they can gain the opportunity for self-expression within the context of our rich cultural tradition. This program deserves the support and assistance of all Americans.

In recognition of the importance of arts education in the lives of everyone, including those with disabilities, and in celebration of Very Special Arts Programs throughout the country, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 103, has designated the month of May 1985 as "Very Special Arts U.S.A. Month" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of May 1985 as Very Special Arts U.S.A. Month. I encourage the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and ninth.

Ronald Reagan

"As children, we all learn the basic verbal skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. But just as important are the non-verbal ways we send messages to each other: dance, music, and the visual arts. For these enrich our lives and make us more fully human.

"Very Special Arts has helped demonstrate that the arts are a tool for learning. Programs in the dramatic arts have led many children, whether disabled or not, to be better readers. Through music, many have learned to count. Dance can teach physical coordination. The visual arts can improve fine-motor skills.

"All children should be encouraged to tap their imagination through the arts. As Margaret Mead once said, 'If we are to achieve a richer culture, we must recognize the whole gamut of potentialities.' Very Special Arts, by nurturing the creative potential of disabled children and adults, has opened a door for all to enter the cultural and educational mainstream of society."

Ernest L. Boyer
Chair, Very Special Arts
President, The Carnegie
Foundation for the Advancement
of Teaching



The goal of Very Special Arts (VSA) is this: to enrich the lives of people who are disabled around the world by encouraging creativity. The achievement of this goal thereby enriches the lives of their families, friends and communities.

The first step toward achieving this ambitious task was taken in 1974 with the creation of the organization known today as Very Special Arts. This step was made possible through funding provided by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation with the purpose of providing creative participation for children who are mentally retarded.

Its staff of two, an executive director and a secretary, worked out of a small office in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. From the beginning, the organization focused its efforts on one primary activity: the "Very Special Arts Festivals." These events, non-competitive but visible to the general public, provide an opportunity for people with disabilities to participate in music, dance, drama, creative writing and the visual arts.

So strong was the nationwide response to this effort that by 1977, the organization was sponsoring 27 festivals around the country.



Although VSA continued to concentrate its efforts on school-aged children and youth, in 1978 it expanded its program again to make the arts available to adults with disabilities, as well. The success of VSA programs continued to exceed all expectations. The result for the rest of the decade was a steady increase in

“Very Special Arts has opened a door for all to enter the cultural and educational mainstream of society.”

VSA’s ability to serve the disabled—both in scope of projects undertaken and in the number of people which the organization became able to serve.

No less significant was the growing maturity of the organization’s philosophy. More and more, VSA’s ultimate mission became cooperative rather than charitable. The Very Special Arts approach to programming afforded disabled participants the opportunity to have a voice in the delivery and development of programs and services.

Coupled with the organization’s deepening dedication to integrating disabled people as

program “personnel,” was the passage of Public Law 94-142 (The Education of All Handicapped Children Act) in 1975.

This landmark legislation, as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, helped to enable VSA to break down barriers, combat stereotypes and integrate the nation’s disabled population into mainstream society on a larger scale.

In this regard, VSA’s new mission statement in 1980 was revealing. It now challenged itself to a much larger goal, aimed at a broader constituency, and identified the arts as a viable means of this integration:

VSA’s mission is to assure that individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to add value to their lives through the arts, and to provide avenues for people with disabilities to integrate into society.

In the midst of this expansion, impending budget cutbacks forced the organization to make difficult choices. Rather than reduce the funds it used in producing programs, it chose to cut its overhead expenses by thirty percent. The message was clear: If its larger goals were to be achieved, new independent, private

support clearly would be necessary. To help achieve this, a multi-faceted National Awareness program was developed to increase public knowledge of VSA’s achievements.

An integral part of this VSA function is to provide its State and District organizations with a broad range of services including annual grants; a wide range of program development training; public service materials for television, radio and print media; and a computerized communication network which provides the organization with the most current data regarding arts with handicapped populations. Meanwhile, each organization develops its own programs and builds its own public and private partnerships.

By mid-decade, VSA programs were operating in over 440 communities throughout each of the fifty states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Dependents Schools—and through VSA international programs, in 40 countries around the world as well.

Jean Kennedy Smith, VSA Founder

“The artist speaks to our
capacity for delight and wonder
. . . to the latent fellowship
with all creation . . . and to
the solidarity which binds
together all humanity.”

Joseph Conrad

Jean Kennedy Smith, founder of Very Special Arts, currently serves on the VSA Executive Committee and as the International Chairperson of the Very Special Arts Festival Program.



In addition to her work with VSA, she supports other organizations which serve those with disabilities. She is a trustee for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and in that capacity is chairperson of its National Education Committee. She is on the Board of Directors of the Kennedy Child Study Center and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

For her outstanding efforts with Very Special Arts, Mrs. Smith has received numerous citations, including the Spirit of Achievement Award from the New York chapter of the National Women's Division of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, the Jefferson Award for Outstanding Public Service from the Institute for Public Service, the 1981 Margaret Mead Humanitarian Award from the Council of Cerebral Palsy Auxiliaries, and the 1979 "Volunteer of the Year" Award from the People-to-People Committee for the Handicapped.

In a recent interview for USA TODAY, Mrs. Smith made clear the insight which constantly renews her dedication to the work of Very Special Arts:

“Last summer in Ireland, I saw a seventeen-year-old boy who was blind. He was in a pottery class. He made an incredible face from clay—absolutely beautiful. I suppose in his hands, his fingers, he has an extra sense that people who see don't understand.

“Art gave that boy the power to see for the rest of us.”

Very Special Arts Festival

“Not art for the sake of art,
but art for the sake of life.”

Bernard Berenson

A Very Special Arts Festival (VSAF) is a non-competitive forum, living proof that the arts have a unique power to stimulate learning among the disabled. It heightens awareness of that power among Festival participants and their parents, educators, local businesses and corporations, arts organizations, the mass media, and the general community.



National Very Special Arts Festival participants performing at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Through workshops addressing every art form held in neighborhood schools and in other community settings, there is a year-long effort to incorporate the arts into the experiences of all people who are disabled—an effort which culminates in the annual State and District Festivals.

To celebrate the success and growth of the local Very Special Arts Festivals, VSA hosted the first National Very Special Arts Festival in 1979.

Certainly one of the most memorable of these National Festivals was that held in 1984, which served in part to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Very Special Arts. For four days, Washington, D.C., opened its doors to more than 750 disabled Americans from all 50 states and a host of international participants, administrators and educators. The Festival was supported totally by private contributions from foundations, corporations and individuals.

The student and professional artists' achievements were displayed through workshops, exhibitions and performances in the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and at Gallaudet College. The premiere of participant Terrylene Theriot's play, starring George Segal, was held at the Kennedy Center. Participants had the opportunity to meet each other and exchange viewpoints and ideas. They took tours of the city's historic buildings and museums and attended a reception which included a fireworks display over the Potomac River.

Of all these events, the highlight was the concert held on the South Lawn of the White



Burl Ives with National Very Special Arts Festival participants performing on the South Lawn of the White House.

House. There, the participants were welcomed by the National Festival's Honorary Chairperson and the nation's First Lady, Nancy Reagan. The White House performance recognized the VSA participants' achievements in the arts and provided a resounding vote of confidence in the abilities of those involved.

“Let each become all that he was created capable of being,
and show himself in his own shape and stature,
be these what they may.”

Thomas Carlyle

VSA Participant Profile: Kenneth Mack

Among the distinguished celebrity artists who saluted the efforts of VSA participants were Bonnie Franklin, Burl Ives, Ronnie Milsap, Tony Randall, Gwen Verdon, George Segal, and “The Muppets.”

An international seminar held in conjunction with this National Festival provided a forum for the exchange of ideas and viewpoints regarding issues facing disabled populations worldwide. The Organization of American States (OAS) and the international seminar brought together administrators and educators from Asia, Australia, Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

This seminar led directly to the creation of Very Special Arts international programs and thereby realized VSA’s effort to spread its work around the world—an effort begun in 1982 with the OAS, and expanded in 1983 through a conference in Vienna with several European nations.

The International Very Special Arts Festival in 1989 brings together children, youth and adults who are disabled from around the world—all speaking the same language of artistic expression.

Kenneth Mack, son of a minister in Natchitoches, Louisiana, is thirteen years old. His growth is impaired.

He is a boy who has had rare performing experiences—singing for Pope John Paul II and President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan.



But to Kenneth, his most memorable engagement was not singing for a person, but for a symbol—the Statue of Liberty. The eyes of the world turned to Kenneth as he sang “The Star-Spangled Banner” during the Opening Ceremony of 1986 Liberty Weekend, commemorating the Statue’s renovation. In Kenneth’s

own words: “Singing for ‘The Lady’ was one of the greatest thrills of my life.”

On November 23, 1985, Kenneth represented the United States at Italy’s first Very Special Arts Festival, which was attended by 7,000 people. The setting and audience could not have been more special. Inside the Vatican’s Nervi Hall, Kenneth sang “The Lord’s Prayer” for the Pope, there to bless the Festival’s accomplishments.

Kenneth was only two years old when he began singing for his father’s church services, but now he leads the junior choir and recently made a solo gospel recording. He credits the development of his talents to his participation in the program of Very Special Arts Louisiana. In 1984 he sang at the World’s Fair and also at the White House for First Lady Nancy Reagan in 1985. That year, he impressed television audiences and President and Mrs. Reagan with his spirited rendition of “Let There Be Peace On Earth” on the NBC Christmas Special.

Kenneth’s mother has encouraged him to find self-confidence and express himself through his involvement in VSA programs. As she phrased it, “He just puts everything he has into his music.”

VSA Festival in the Netherlands



Henk Hergarden
Chairman, Netherlands program

“Art bids us touch and taste
and hear and see the world.”
William Butler Yeats

In 1985, Very Special Arts Festivals took place in countries around the world, including France, Ireland, Belgium and Panama. One such Festival was the first held by Very Special Arts Netherlands.

It happened on the Twentieth of September, 25 miles southeast of Amsterdam, in the lovely 12th-century town of Amersfoort.

For that day, Amersfoort’s mayor allowed the large City Hall to be transformed into a small village of art. Its auditorium became a the-

ater for drama, dance and cabaret, with its corridors turned into streets filled with stands exhibiting the art of VSA participants.

The day was a celebration of cooperation—with strong contributions by the artists, educators, governmental and medical institutions, as well as many Dutch business leaders.

Those at the Netherlands’ National Television Foundation, NOS-TVb, were so convinced of the importance of these activities that they produced and aired an hour-long documentary

demonstrating how valuable arts can be in enriching the lives of people with disabilities.

Bringing a splendid touch of royalty to the occasion was the Foundation’s honorary chairperson, Queen Julianna der Nederlanden. But

the theme of the day was expressed by Henk Hergarden, the Foundation’s chairman, who said:

“Art does not know any limits. Art should be for everyone. Let us work together to assure that this is really true.”

Then it was Mayor Schreuder’s turn to put that sentiment into heart-warming action by his manner of opening the Festival. He walked to the middle of the City Hall stage where waiting for him was Corrie van Hugten, the leader of “De Raddraaiers,” a team of Dutch wheelchair dancers. Together, Miss van Hugten and the mayor broke into an impromptu dance—with one dancer afoot, the other on wheels.

As the mayor stepped aside, the Raddraaiers performed their versions of European ballroom and Latin American dances. Their formations were intricate and professional. As one observer put it, “They showed what fun people can have while dancing—even when restricted to a wheelchair.”



Very Special Arts Special Projects

And so the day progressed, with cabaret, improvisation, and marionettes. But of all the performances, perhaps the most special was that of "The Hummingbird," a French theater group from Lille, whose members range in age from 19 to 30. All have mental retardation and originally lived in institutions.

Now as a group they create their own theatrical scenarios, direct their own productions, and design their own masks. They announced:

"Our goal is to explore all kinds of art that make people mature, to make the public sensitive to the art that is inside people who are different, and to show that we are complete people and have something to say."

The repeated ovations, following their performance, suggested they had achieved their goal. One spectator, as he was leaving the theater, told a journalist: "Please, don't talk to me for a moment. What a performance!"

To end the day's activities, Conny Vink, a leading Dutch singer, performed her nationally famous song "Samen" ("Together").

That theme was stressed afterwards by one of the participants:

"Today, all of us were incorporated into the normal process. And that's our goal: going together. Everyone, disabled or not, deserves respect and a place in society."

Since its beginning, the organization has conducted Special Projects—whereby VSA, in conjunction with prominent organizations, has created and promoted innovative model projects designed to open new doors in the arts. This important program includes the following projects:

New Visions Dance Project. The Alvin Ailey American Dance Center has made enormous contributions to American culture. Yet it may be that their most significant contribution will be for students who cannot see them dance.

Carol Penn
with participant
in New Visions
Dance project.



“If you could just show me what to do!
Help me once, and then I can do it.”

Carlton Knowles
New Visions Dance Project for Students
who are Blind and Visually Impaired

It began several years ago as an idea in the mind of Alvin Ailey. He remembered a social event:

“Several people were bopping to disco music, and I didn’t know until later that they were blind. I thought, ‘Wouldn’t it be great if blind people could always do this?’ ”

Today, that idea is becoming a reality. VSA and the Alvin Ailey Dance Center began working with a group of students from the New York City Public Schools, a group that one year later had its debut at the Kennedy Center during the 1984 National Very Special Arts Festival.

So that this technique can be replicated anywhere, the Ailey Center, with help from VSA staff, has created a programming guide, and the New York University Film School has prepared a videotape. Already, visually disabled students in New York, Des Moines, Kansas City, Alabama, Florida, Washington, D.C., and other sites are learning from professional dancers how to express themselves through movement and music.

Henry Fonda Young Playwrights Project. It has been said that there is at least one play in the life of every person. But how can all the potential dramas exploring the lives of people with disabilities be brought into being? How can more of these people learn the techniques of drama—of how to shape the raw ingredients of experience into a communication of ardor, insight and laughter?



Scene from “Inside Out, Upside Down”
performed at Henry Fonda Young Playwrights
Day at the John F. Kennedy Center for the
Performing Arts.

In answer, Very Special Arts has begun an exchange program with the Royal Court Young People’s Theatre in London, with the help of Omega Watch Corporation and the Mobil Foundation Inc. It invites students with and without disabilities to participate in playwriting workshops in eight states and the District of Columbia, while encouraging script-writing classes in schools around the country.

Scripts are submitted annually to VSA. One or two plays are selected for presentation at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Through the newly developed exchange program, the selected works are also presented at the Royal Court Young Writer’s Festival in London. And, in return, a selected play from the Royal Court is produced at the Kennedy Center.

Members of the selection committee are:
Roger L. Stevens (Honorary Chairperson), chairman of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts;
Jack Hofsiss, (Co-Chairperson), director of the Broadway production of “The Elephant Man”;
Shirlee Fonda (Co-Chairperson);

"The bells that children hear
are inside of them."

Dylan Thomas



Itzhak Perlman (right) presents Itzhak Perlman Award to Barbara Sue Martin from Louisville, Kentucky.

Jane Fonda, Academy-Award-winning actress;
Peter Stone, president, Council of the Dramatists Guild;

Wendy Wasserstein, playwright: "Isn't It Romantic?" and "Uncommon Women and Others";

Fred Zollo, Broadway producer: "Hurlyburly," "On Golden Pond" and "Night Mother."

The Creative Writing Project. To encourage participation in other forms of writing, Very Special Arts has begun a model program in cooperation with the PEN American Center, an association of professional writers. In this

project, members of PEN conduct creative-writing workshops in hospitals in New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and other cities.

Many of the works coming out of these workshops will be featured in Very Special Arts Festivals—helping educators, therapists, parents and the general public to become more aware of the talents and concerns of people with disabilities.

Project REAP [Retirement with Enrichment, the Arts and Purpose]. Joining forces with the American Federation of Teachers, Very Special Arts has developed model programs in U.S. cities to enlist and train retirees—especially former teachers—to work as volunteer aides in various VSA programs concerned with all art forms. Project REAP is supported by funding from the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation.

Artists Unlimited. This model project, established in conjunction with Humana Inc., and started by its Chief Executive Officer, David Jones, enables hospitals, nursing homes and other institutions to make their environments more beautiful by selecting artwork created by Very Special Arts participants. The

patients in these institutions may also participate in workshops, where they may create artwork of their own.

Veterans Administration Hospital Arts Workshops. This model project brings artistic experiences to hospitalized veterans and encourages their participation in local Very Special Arts Festivals. These workshops in music, dance, drama, creative writing, and the visual arts help the veterans develop important learning and living skills.

The Itzhak Perlman Award. Named for the internationally acclaimed violinist and VSA Board Member, this award is designed to encourage careers in the performing arts. Each year, a distinguished panel of judges focuses on a single area of performers—such as singers, actors, or instrumentalists. The panel selects the recipient from nominees who have disabilities and who are between the ages of ten and twenty-one.

“It is only with the heart
that one sees rightly. What is essential
is invisible to the eye.”

Antoine Saint-Exupery

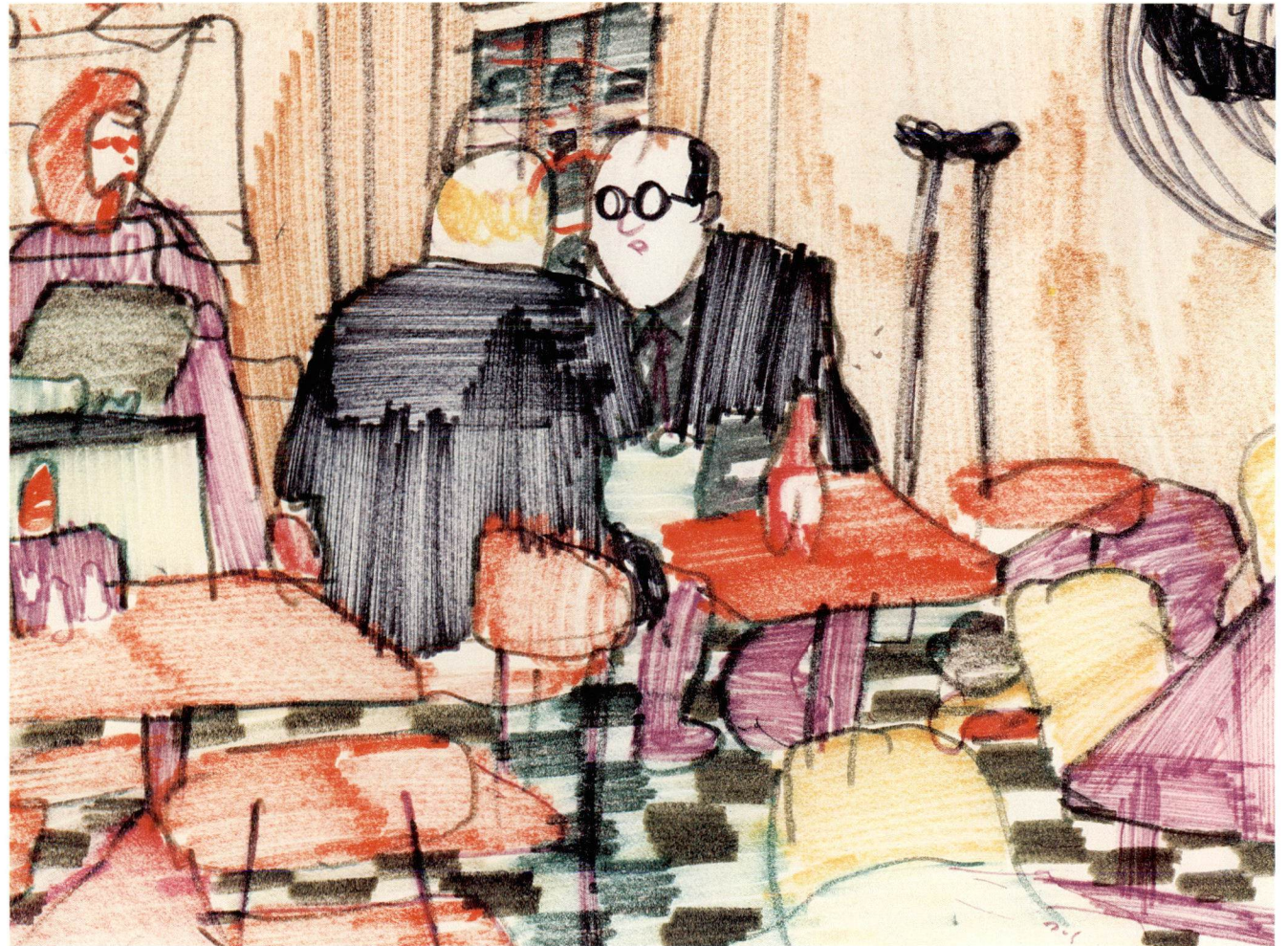
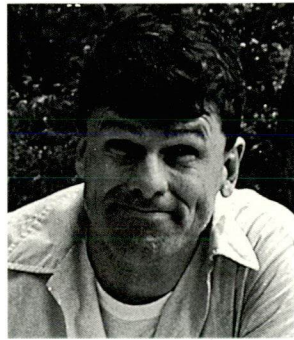
Tracy Beavers is an artist with a learning disability. She is a student at the Mills School in Mills, Wyoming, where her teachers proudly report that, since receiving special education, the artist is making great gains.



Burst of Joy
By Tracy Beavers

“Creativity is a necessary sequel to being.”
Rollo May

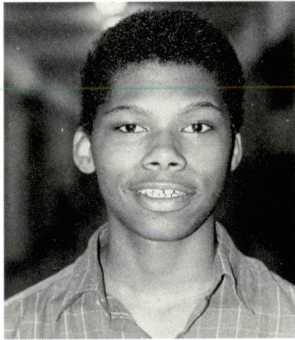
Micky Doolittle is a resident at the Southbury Training School in Southbury, Connecticut. Doolittle, an artist who is educably mentally retarded, began practicing his art at the age of 20. Since then, he has carried drawing materials wherever he goes. He is a frequent visitor at Mainstreet, his school's cafe, where he likes to sit and draw people while they have lunch.



Main Street
by Micky Doolittle

Perry King is an artist with a learning disability. A senior at Waggener High School in Louisville, Kentucky, Perry has been winning awards for his artistry since he was in the third grade.

This work is Perry's first batik, an art form using cloth and dye. He asked the school librarian to pose for him on Halloween day, when all the teachers and students were in costumes. The librarian was dressed as a clown. And so, "Batik Clown" was born. Perry claims that art gives him a satisfaction and pride beyond words.



Batik Clown
by Perry King

VSA Participant Profiles

Jason Ellsworth

Jason Ellsworth is a ten-year-old third grader who is blind and has cerebral palsy. Those who have heard him perform know why USA TODAY named him one of 1985's "People Who Made a Difference."

A country music singer and pianist from East Windsor, Connecticut, Jason has sung on stages across the United States—from the Grand Ole Opry to the White House. In May 1984, Jason performed at Washington's Kennedy Center during the National Very Special Arts Festival. The response was electric.

After that appearance, Jason sang before 3,000 people at the World's Fair in New Orleans. Helping Jason were three "pretty good back-up singers," country music greats Tammy Wynette, Eddie Rabbitt and T.G. Sheppard. After Jason's renditions of the songs of Hank Williams and George Jones, the amphitheater audience gave him standing ovations and calls for encore performances.

Later, during Country Music Week, he performed on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry.

But one appearance ranked above all the others. In September 1985, Jason joined other VSA participants in a concert at the White House. There, accompanied by the Gatlin Brothers, he played and sang "Long Gone

Lonesome Blues" and "All the Gold in California" for First Lady Nancy Reagan.

After another standing ovation, the audience enthusiastically answered Jason's question, "Don't I get to do another one?" Larry Gatlin quipped, "We've decided we're getting him a shaving kit and jeans and taking him on the road."

At the end of the performance, Mrs. Reagan commented to the audience, "If anybody got through that entertainment with a dry eye, you did better than I!"

Once again, Jason had made a difference. And the opportunity to perform made a big difference to Jason.



Jason Ellsworth sings with the Gatlin Brothers at the White House.

“We’ve all been so busy doing things for disabled people that I think we’ve lost sight of the fact that these are wonderfully able, talented, competent people.”

Jean Rusch-Wesley, Wisconsin
teacher and director of a singing group featured
in the 1984 National Very Special Arts Festival.

William Britt

Until 1974, William Britt lived most of his life at Willowbrook, a New York State institution for the mentally retarded. He was regarded as an angry, easily frustrated person who spent most of his time in solitude.



Shortly after Britt entered the Margaret Chapman School in Hawthorne, New York, school officials decided to see what they could do to help him become more trusting, more interested in others. Noting his skills and interest in drawing, painting and woodworking, they gave him the use of a workshop. A change began to take place.

The 1976 annual VSA Southern New York Regional Festival was in May. William Britt saw the joy and appreciation of all the spectators and for the first time knew the true value of his work. Since then, he has refined his technique and his self-confidence has increased.

Britt has studied art at Westchester Community College with Professor John Halsall, and shared his skill with other students in workshops of the VSA New York program.

According to Britt, one of his “best paintings yet” was a depiction of a large, familiar mansion with a fountain and a long sweeping green lawn. The mansion in the picture was the White House, and it was there, in a special ceremony, that William Britt presented his painting to Nancy Reagan.

The following May, he gave a large circular canvas of the Nelson D. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza to Governor Mario Cuomo. And it is his painting “Sandals” that is on the cover of the 1986 Very Special Arts calendar.

Renowned artist, Robert Berks, has said that Britt’s talent “captures the sensitivity of texture and the feeling of fundamental relations—all in a fresh manner. And that, after all, is what art is all about.”

But perhaps the most telling detail about William Britt’s artistic career is his newly won independence as a human being. In December 1984, he left his Chapman School dormitory to live in a community residence with five others.

“When I was young, God gave me the gift of painting. My goal is to sell my paintings and some day to buy my own home.”

In April 1986, one of Britt’s works was sold at the prestigious Sotheby’s in New York City.

"Love's the gift which God has given....
It is the silver link, the silken tie,
Which heart to heart and mind to mind.
In body and in soul can bind."

Sir Walter Scott

Terrylene Theriot

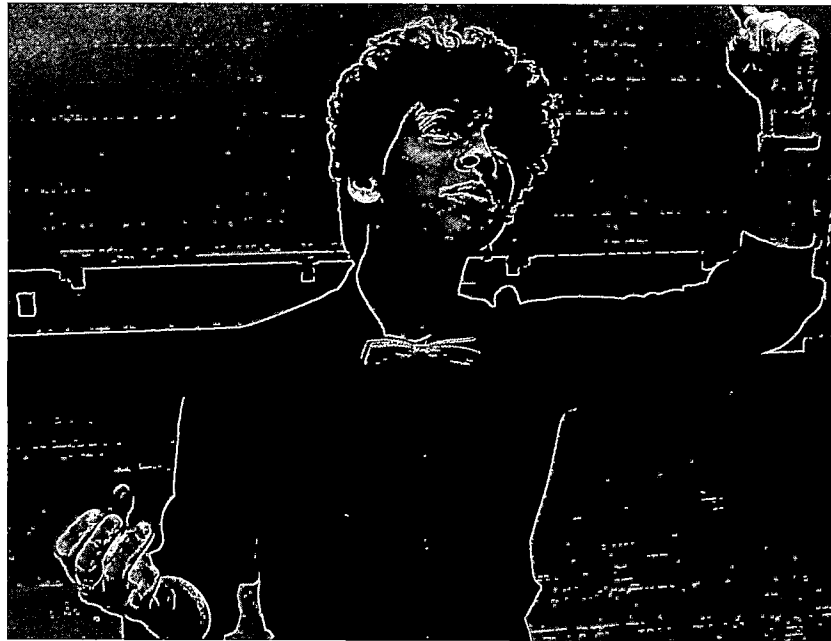
"When I was very young—maybe four or five—I saw a woman dancing on TV. Of course there was no sound. My whole family is deaf. But I ran and got my mother who turned the volume up as loud as it would go. And suddenly I realized there was music."

She did not hear the music as most people do. She heard only a humming, sometimes a rhythmic beat. But it was enough for Terrylene Theriot to fall in love—with music and dance and with the possibility that somehow she might use them to communicate within a silent world.

Growing up in Chicago and then Texas, she often felt excluded from the hearing world. If she tried to talk, people recoiled from her as if, she remembers, "deafness was catching."

When she was 15, she inherited a friend's pen pal, an inmate in a Texas jail.

"I was angry inside, but I had no one to tell. Because he was staying in one cell, I thought maybe he would understand. I'd write and share my anger and my dreams. I told him I was deaf. But if the world were full of laughter I could hear that."



The prisoner's replies made clear that he shared her anger, but not her dreams. He mocked her innocent idealism.

Terrylene knew she must choose. She could remain a prisoner of her bitterness. But instead, she says, "I chose to see a beautiful world."

That same year, she entered the Model Secondary School for the Deaf (MSSD), a federally funded demonstration high school on the campus of Washington, D.C.'s Gallaudet Col-

lege, the world's only accredited liberal arts college for the deaf.

While there, she wrote a play. She wrote it in American Sign Language. Her drama teacher translated it into written English idioms. She called it "Imagine." Based on her pen-pal correspondence with the prisoner, its theme was isolation:

"Just because I'm deaf doesn't mean I'm isolated. Anyone can have that. Some hearing people talk all day long and feel 'No one understands me.' Talk isn't necessarily communication. People have different kinds of isolation."

"Imagine" was entered in the 1984 Henry Fonda Young Playwrights Project. It was produced at the Kennedy Center, and starred actor George Segal as the prisoner.

The following spring, Terrylene was graduated from MSSD, and spent the summer with her fellow student actors touring the United Kingdom in a production of *Godspell*. After appearing at Ireland's first Very Special Arts Festival, the student company opened with great

The Chain of Involvement

The Participant

success in London's Sadlers Wells Theatre.

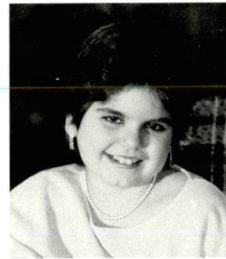
What of the future? Her teacher, Tim McCarty, has high hopes for her:

"I see Terrylene as the future of deaf people. She could go ahead and perform for small community groups for the deaf. But I see her potential impact as much more. She's a crossover. I think she's that good."

Perhaps it is better to let the last word belong to her. Terrylene's boyfriend is a hearing person. One day he was driving with her in a car with rock music playing over the radio. He spoke of the memories those songs evoked for him and said to her, "You don't have that."

Terrylene said:

"Look at the wind on my face. The wind on my face is my music. I'll know the wind the way you will never know the wind."



Kathy Sale, fourteen years old, is a student at Kraemer Junior High School in the Placentia School District of Orange County, California. Kathy has juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. She says:

"Being part of the Very Special Arts Festivals has given me the chance to express my true emotions. Through the Festivals, I've been recognized as having talent. I've been given the opportunity to show the world that 'I Can.'

"I've met so many nice people in my experiences in the Festivals. Everyone has been so supportive and willing to go that extra mile to let me shine."

The Parent



Eugene J. Sanchez lives in New Mexico. His ten-year-old son, Aaron, was born with Down Syndrome. Mr. Sanchez says:

"Aaron is a very special child. As a parent, I feel that all children—including Aaron—will learn and grow only as much as we have patience to teach them, and only as much as we make facilities available to them.

"Very Special Arts New Mexico has given Aaron a chance to reach his maximum, to express himself, to have an attitude of self-worth and self-confidence, to have a genuine feeling of accomplishment.

"I applaud this very important program. There was a void there, which now has been filled—for the benefit of all children. but especially for my son, Aaron."

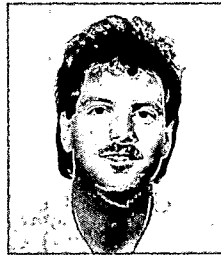
The Volunteer



A native New Yorker, Martha Grinnell is a retired teacher who found herself drawn to the local Very Special Arts Festival Program. Grinnell initially was involved in VSA's Project REAP and eventually became interested in other aspects of the organization. She raised funds, helped to acquire materials for the program's special artists and has been instrumental in developing new projects. She says:

"One of the special projects in which I'm involved unites artists and craftspersons with disabled teenagers and institutionalized elderly people. It provides a structure for meaningful communication between and among all three groups. "I feel fortunate to have found an organization which allows me to combine my interest in the arts with an opportunity to serve disabled populations in my community."

The Teacher



Joseph E. Amato is a teacher at the Dunwood School in Fox Point, Wisconsin. He sees his involvement with Very Special Arts Wisconsin as being the link between VSA and "those who just happen to be handicapped." He says:

"An experience I remember most vividly followed a mime workshop I presented. A hearing-impaired 12-year-old boy refused to let the session end, insisting that it continue. He helped with the next session, and while he did I realized that this may have been the first time he was ever involved in an activity that was really second-nature to him.

"He had used forms of mime all his life, but no one had ever treated it as an art form. Suddenly, his disability had become his ability! Today, he continues to perform and work with other hearing-impaired students."

The Coordinator



Michal Anne Lord is Program Coordinator for Very Special Arts Texas. She says:

"The VSA program can provide the spark for igniting a sense of community—within the arts and within the larger community—because the arts are for everyone. They allow us to say who we are.

"For me, VSA has meant new friends and associations, many miles travelled, an ever-growing 'bag of tricks' (art activities I can take back home), memories of the excitement and joy on the faces of VSA Festival participants as they try to create or perform for the first time, and the knowledge that the arts allow ALL people to learn and grow—as individuals and as members of society."

Very Special Profile: Gayle Foy

The Sponsor



Dee Wing is New York Telephone's Community Representative for Potsdam, not far from the St. Lawrence River which divides Upstate New York from Canada. The telephone company makes annual contributions to VSA New York's North Country Regional Festivals. Mrs. Wing says: "New York Telephone has a long tradition of supporting cultural activities and helping to improve the quality of life in the communities it serves. "The Very Special Arts Festival not only meets those goals, but it also serves to prove—through the dedication of its volunteers and the enthusiasm of its participants—that the arts truly belong to everyone."

Gayle Anne Foy is President of the Board of Directors and a founding member of Very Special Arts Indiana. As a wife and mother, actress, community advocate, and professional educator of children with disabilities, she is one of those people whose diverse interests have an uncommon singularity of purpose.



A graduate in speech and drama from St. Mary's College in Notre Dame (Indiana), she became a professional actress, a member of Actors' Equity, and toured the nation with Mary Martin in the Los Angeles Civic Light Opera production of "Annie Get Your Gun."

To raise her family, which eventually grew to ten children, Gayle set aside her theatrical career for a while.

Yet various experiences eventually led her to a life seemingly far from either the homemaker or the musical actress. She was to become President of the State Board of Directors for Art Education Training for the Handicapped, a member of the Indiana Governor's Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, and a member of the board of directors for a professional lending library of toys for disabled children.

Foy received the 1986 Volunteer of the Year Award from Very Special Arts Indiana. According to Gayle, her destiny was inevitable and utterly natural:

"I've always felt a child's education should incorporate the arts. Theater, dance, music and visual art have always been a part of our life.

“The end of all our exploring
will be to arrive where we started
and know the place for the first
time.”

T.S. Eliot

Paint and crayons and blank paper were more important than toys from a store. The ‘dress-up chest’ was always full of cast-off colorful clothes and shoes and hats. And make-believe plays were going on constantly.

“When Christopher was born with Down Syndrome, life went on as it always did, and Chris was swept along with it, incorporated into it. He became another actor on the stage of our lives. We have motivated him with drama, music, movement and color. They have made the difference in his life.

“My challenge has been to find in my own art form, drama, the keys for activating a child’s learning process. After all, learning and creating are closely related: both struggle with ‘what if’ and ‘what can be.’

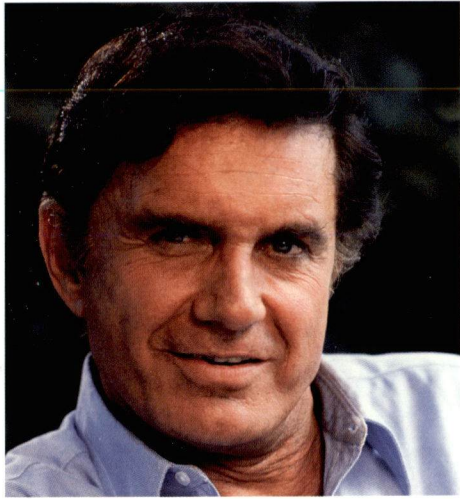
“I started to use my skills as an actress for that purpose when Chris went to a Special Education pre-school. Once a week, I went as an unpaid aide and tried to pick up the methods and techniques. For years, I continued to go into the classroom, sometimes teaching a class by using puppets, play-acting and art.

“We found that letting the children act in plays helped their attention span, verbal skills, memory, patience, and ability to work together. But it was also fun, and the kids were *good* at it. That’s why I started the Rainbow Players, a drama troupe of disabled students.

“My involvement with the handicapped and their families, like all loves, has grown like Topsy. I’ve tried to help parents with the process of coping—to educate them in all aspects of their children’s lives. I’ve become an advocate and tried to teach the *parents* to become advocates. I’ve gotten into governmental programs at the state level.

“But the most fun is when I’m with a group of children, and by ‘turning them on’ with drama, I help them learn.”

Very Special Artist Committee



Cliff Robertson,
National Spokesperson/Chairman
Very Special Artist Committee

“The disabled are just like us—with the same dreams and ambitions. They just have to be braver and work harder to overcome the barriers in their paths. But overcome them they do, and by their achievement, they bring a greater sense of fulfillment to their lives and to ours.”

F. Murray Abraham

Alvin Ailey

Pearl Bailey Bellson

Robert Berks

Harry Blackstone

Bernard Bragg

Tom Brokaw

Diahann Carroll

Lynda Carter

David Cassidy

John Curry

Peter Duchin

Jane Fonda

Bonnie Franklin

Phyllis Frelich

Adolph Green

Phyllis Newman Green

Lena Horne

Burl Ives

Alan King

George Latshaw

Norman Mailer

Andrea McArdle

Ronnie Milsap

Lowell Nesbitt

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Tony Randall

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T. G. Sheppard

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Richard Thomas

Cicely Tyson

Andy Warhol

Eli Wallach

Barbara Walters

Henry Winkler

Jamie Wyeth

Tammy Wynette

Corporate Friends of Very Special Arts

Humana Inc.

With program sites in over 440 locations across the country, Very Special Arts encourages the creative talents and artistic self-expression of disabled children, youth and adults through the development and promotion of visual and performing arts activities.

Recently, Humana Inc. had the opportunity to host one of the many special projects of Very Special Arts, the Artists Unlimited Project, at Humana Hospital—University, in Louisville, Kentucky.

Humana looks forward to working with Very Special Arts in many more sites across the country, encouraging the establishment of the Artists Unlimited project in a greater number of Humana health care facilities. We are confident that the Project will continue to bring the beauty of artistic inspiration to our patients.

David A. Jones
Chief Executive Officer

International Business Machines Corporation

IBM has always recognized that ability, rather than disability, is what counts. By providing people who have disabilities with opportunities to develop their creativity, VSA extends this principle to the arts. VSA's programs not only enhance their lives but also enrich the lives of all of us.

John F. Akers
Chairman of the Board

MCA Inc.

We at MCA are proud to support Very Special Arts (VSA).

MCA has made a commitment to support VSA and to help encourage other corporations and foundations to provide financial assistance. We are very pleased to report that VSA has continued to grow in both the number of disabled persons it serves and in the amount of funds it raises. In addition, in 1984, VSA international programs began and now VSA works with affiliates in 40 countries.

Lew R. Wasserman
Chairman of the Board

Mobil Oil Corporation

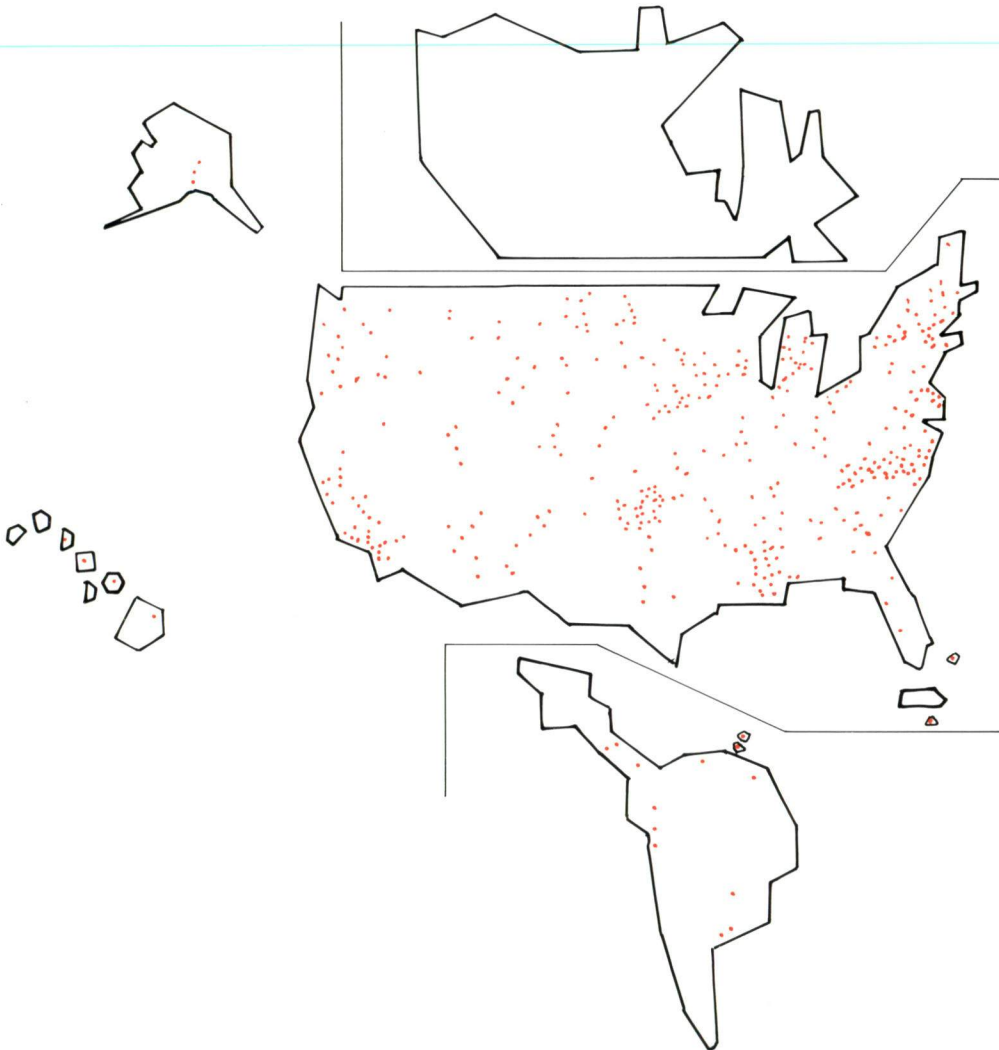
Mobil has helped VSA achieve its goals of serving persons with disabilities through the arts in a number of ways. In addition to providing general support, Mobil produced two public service announcements which aired during *Nicholas Nickleby* in 1983 and *King Lear and Two By Forsyth* in 1984. Through these announcements, millions of people learned about VSA; and there was increased interest on the part of parents and teachers of students with disabilities. So many people wrote to Mobil, in fact, we felt it necessary to place an advertisement in major newspapers around the nation asking people to write to VSA directly.

However, more work needs to be done and we hope that other individuals and organizations will join Mobil in supporting the work of VSA.

Herbert Schmertz
Vice President

Very Special Arts Program Sites

National



International



International Affiliates

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Argentina | Ecuador | Ireland | Sri Lanka |
| Australia | El Salvador | Israel | Suriname |
| Bahamas | France | Italy | Switzerland |
| Barbados | Germany | Jamaica | Tanzania |
| Belgium | Ghana | Kenya | Trinidad & Tobago |
| Brazil | Greece | Malawi | Uganda |
| Colombia | Honduras | The Netherlands | Venezuela |
| Costa Rica | Hong Kong | New Zealand | Yugoslavia |
| Denmark | Hungary | Panama | Zambia |
| | Indonesia | Paraguay | Zimbabwe |
| | | Seychelles | |

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John Whitman

Typography: Cynthia Del Vaglio
Your Type

Paper: Champion International
Corporation

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry, no matter how small, should be recorded to ensure the integrity of the financial data. This includes not only sales and purchases but also expenses and income. The document provides a detailed explanation of how to categorize these transactions and how to use a double-entry system to ensure that the books are balanced.

The second part of the document focuses on the practical aspects of bookkeeping. It outlines the steps involved in setting up a ledger and how to record transactions. It also discusses the importance of regular reconciliations and how to identify and correct errors. The document provides a clear and concise guide to the bookkeeping process, making it accessible to both beginners and experienced practitioners.

The third part of the document covers the various methods used to summarize and analyze financial data. It discusses the use of T-accounts, trial balances, and financial statements. It also provides a detailed explanation of how to calculate and interpret key financial ratios and indicators. This section is particularly useful for those who need to understand the financial health of a business and how to make informed decisions based on the data.

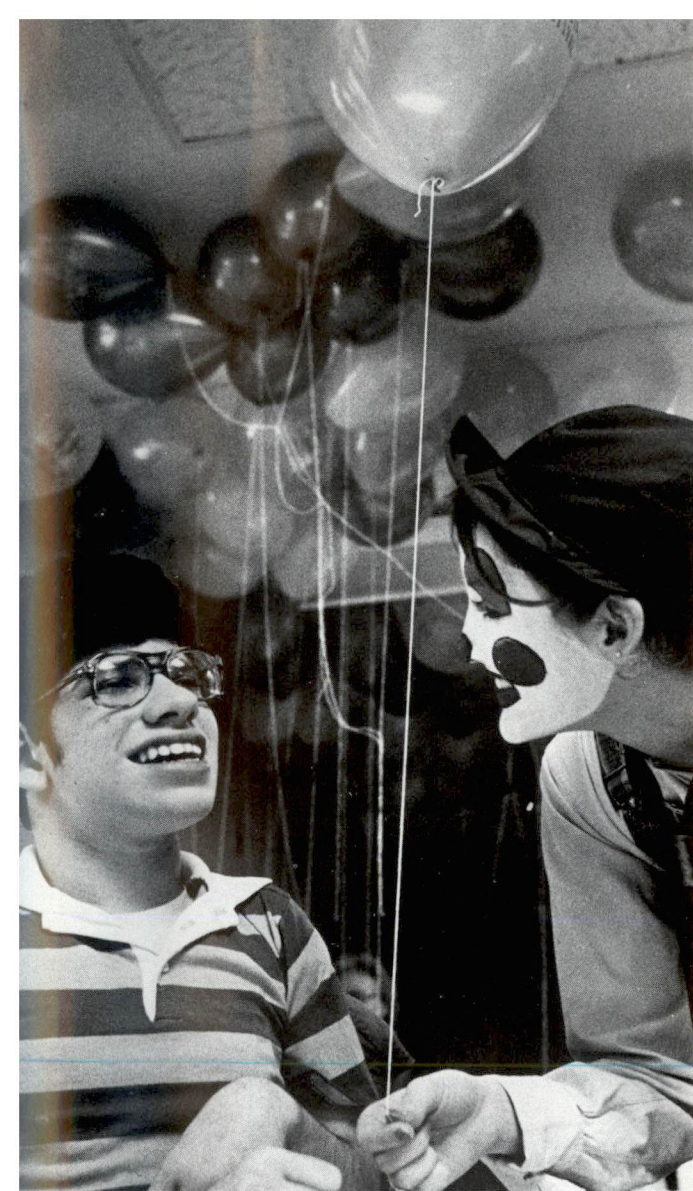
Finally, the document concludes with a discussion of the role of bookkeeping in the overall management of a business. It emphasizes that bookkeeping is not just a technical task but a vital part of the business's financial strategy. It provides a final summary of the key points covered in the document and offers some advice on how to continue to improve one's bookkeeping skills.



**VERY
SPECIAL
ARTS**

Enriching the lives of people with disabilities

Very Special Arts
Education Office
John F. Kennedy Center
for the Performing Arts
Washington, D.C. 20566



If you would like more information about Very Special Arts or would like to attend the 1989 International Very Special Arts Festival, please contact:

Very Special Arts
 International Very Special Arts Festival Director
 Education Office
 John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
 Washington, D.C. 20566

(202) 662-8899 (Voice)
 (202) 662-8898 (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf)
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A Creative Celebration...

International



VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL

**June 14-18, 1989
 Washington, DC**

1989 International Very Special Arts Festival

A World United in Creative Celebration

In June 1989, more than 1,000 people with physical and mental challenges will travel to Washington, D.C. from all 50 states and 50 countries for four days of fun, friendship and self-expression. Painting and poetry, drama and dance, music and mime will be the languages they speak. And through their creative accomplishments, they will send a message to the world.

This is the 1989 International Very Special Arts Festival, taking place from June 14 to 18, 1989—a celebration dedicated to demonstrating the power of the arts in the lives of individuals with special needs.

In the tradition of the 1984 National Very Special Arts Festival, which brought together artists with disabilities from across the country, the 1989 International Very Special Arts Festival will feature performances, workshops, exhibitions and demonstrations representing quality arts programming from 51 nations. Festival participants will share the joy of artistic achievement at locations throughout Washington, D.C....at the White House and Capitol Hill... the campus of Georgetown University...and the stages of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Some of the world's most prominent artists from film, theater, dance, music and the fine arts will join parents, teachers, volunteers and Very Special Artists in this unprecedented showcase for model programs and innovative

techniques implemented by Very Special Arts in the United States and its affiliates around the world.

Very Special Arts invites you to participate in an extraordinary event. For information on how you can become involved, please call or write to Very Special Arts.



What is Very Special Arts?

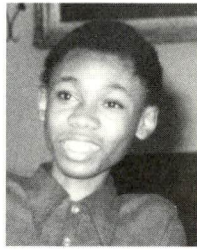
Very Special Arts has been designated by the Congress of the United States to coordinate quality arts programs for children, youth and adults with mental and physical challenges. Founded in 1974 by Jean Kennedy Smith as an educational affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Very Special Arts is dedicated to enriching the lives of all individuals through the creation of arts opportunities in drama, dance, music, literature and visual arts.

Across the United States, more than one million people—from 15,000 communities—participate in Very Special Arts activities, including performances, exhibitions, workshops and training sessions. Very Special Arts Festivals form the centerpiece of the organization and represent the culmination of year-round programming efforts. In the U.S. alone, more than 650 festivals will occur this year, allowing people with special needs to celebrate and share their achievements in the arts.

The international programs of Very Special Arts, established in 1984, currently include affiliates in 46 nations around the globe and demonstrate growing worldwide awareness of the educational and cultural benefits available through arts participation for all people.



Chain of Involvement

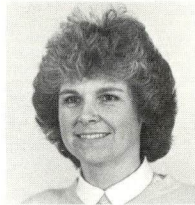


PARTICIPANT

George Austin
is a 14-year-old participant from Very Special Arts Maryland who has muscular dystrophy. He is a sensitive artist with an ability to translate everyday things into abstract images. "I want to be an artist one day when I grow up. When I'm in art class, I try my very best."

PARENT

Susan Ellsworth
Mother of Jason Ellsworth, Very Special Arts Connecticut Participant "As a parent of a handicapped child, Very Special Arts gives me hope and a feeling of support in my commitment to provide a full life for Jason."

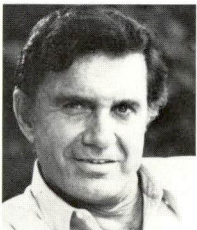


VOLUNTEER

Laurel Bessesen
Arts Department Chair, General Federation of Women's Clubs "Watching the joy of the mentally and physically challenged as they experience their talents gives joy to the heart of a volunteer who has been a part of Very Special Arts."

TEACHER

Marjorie Nichols
Tara High School, Baton Rouge, Louisiana "The amount of warmth and excitement generated by a Very Special Arts Festival is always worth the effort put forth."

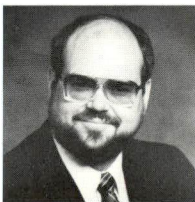


ARTIST

Cliff Robertson
National Spokesperson Very Special Arts "The disabled are just like us—with the same dreams and ambitions. They just have to be braver and work harder to overcome the barriers in their paths."

COORDINATOR

David Brustkern
Executive Director, Very Special Arts Iowa "Accessing art opportunities and hands-on experiences for people with disabilities is what Very Special Arts is all about."



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Artist

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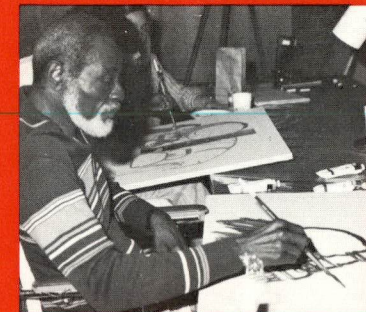
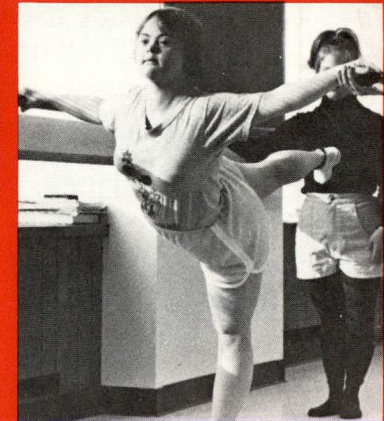
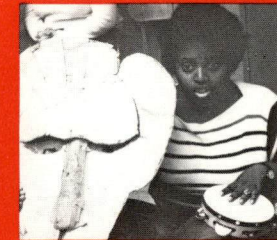
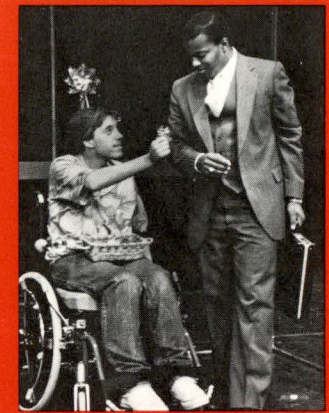
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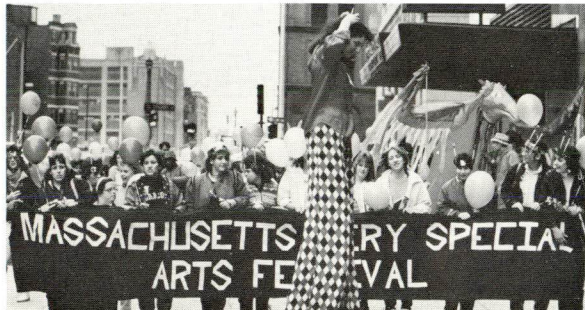
VERY SPECIAL ARTS

Enriching the lives of people with disabilities

Through dance, drama, music, literature and the visual arts, Very Special Arts creates avenues for people who are physically or mentally challenged to enter the mainstream of society.

Founded in 1974 by Jean Kennedy Smith, Very Special Arts is an international organization devoted to enriching the lives of people with disabilities. Very Special Arts, an educational affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., is designated by the United States Congress as the nation's coordinating agency of arts programs for individuals with disabilities.

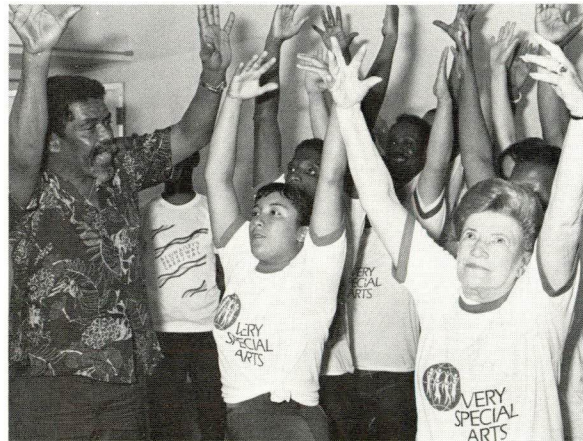
In more than 1,000 locations throughout all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, Very Special Arts non-profit organizations reach more than one million people in many ways.



Very Special Arts Festivals offer non-competitive forums for children, youth and adults with disabilities to celebrate and share creative accomplishments. Featuring workshops, demonstrations, performances and exhibitions, more than 650 Festivals across the United States eloquently express the full range of year-round Very Special Arts activities.

Special Projects in association with distinguished organizations — such as the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the PEN (Poets,

Essayists and Novelists) American Center, the Veterans Administration and Humana Hospitals — build channels for fresh initiatives in the arts for people with disabilities. In other programs, such as the Henry Fonda Young Playwrights Project, students learn new art forms and explore various aspects of disability.



Workshops, Training and Resource Materials

support Very Special Arts participants as well as educators, parents, artists and volunteers. At the same time, Very Special Arts actively offers the general public essential information about the educational, cultural and vocational benefits of arts programs for people who face mental or physical challenges.

International Programs take place in over 40 nations, including Belgium, France, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, the Netherlands and Yugoslavia.

“Every person has a potential for talent, a capacity for creativity and a right to enjoy to the fullest the beauty and vitality of the arts.”

Jean Kennedy Smith



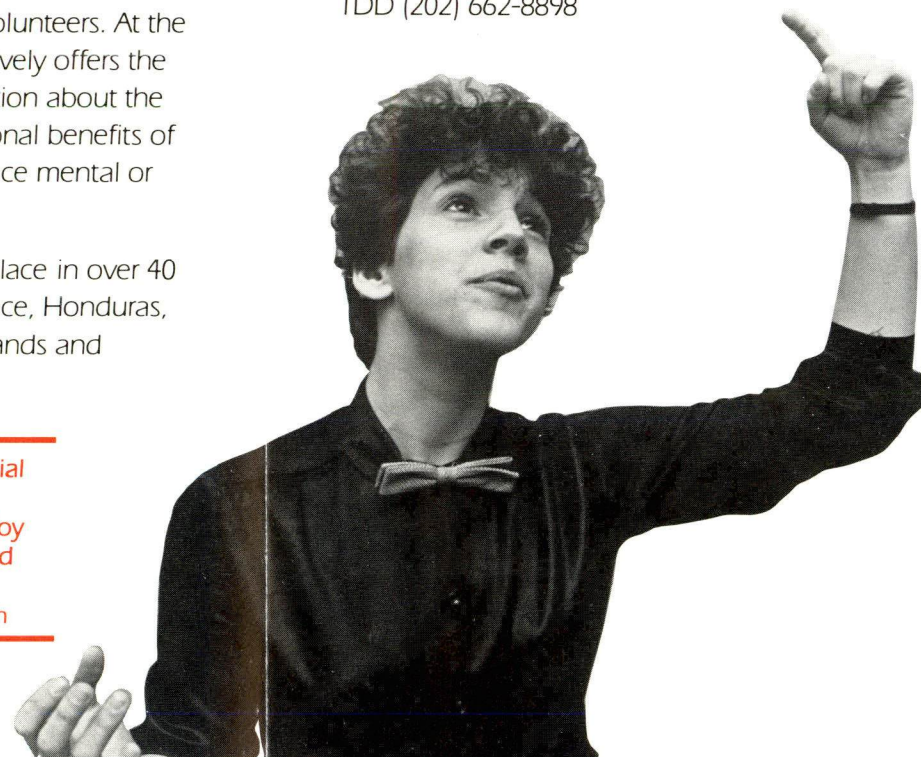
In 1989, the **International Very Special Arts Festival** will bring people with disabilities from around the world to Washington, D.C. — all speaking the universal language of the arts.

For more information about Very Special Arts in your area, contact:

Very Special Arts
Education Office
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Washington, D.C. 20566

Voice (202) 662-8899

TDD (202) 662-8898



The week of June 12 through 18 in the nation's capital marks an unprecedented tribute to creativity and achievement through the arts. The 1989 International Very Special Arts Festival brings together more than one thousand participants with physical and mental challenges from around the world. Through their creative accomplishments in music, dance, drama, creative writing and the visual arts, children, youth and adults will celebrate and share the power of the arts for all people.

This extraordinary festival commemorates the fifteenth anniversary of Very Special Arts, an educational affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1974 by Jean Kennedy Smith, Very Special Arts coordinates educational programs in the arts for people with mental and physical challenges. Over the years, Very Special Arts has expanded its programs to reach more than one million people in the United States and in over 50 countries worldwide. Through the universal language of art Very Special Arts participants are forging new channels of communications, achievement, and pride.

The 1989 International Very Special Arts Festival features performances, art exhibitions and demonstrations, workshops, educational symposia, and many other special events taking place throughout Washington, D.C. Please join Very Special Arts in celebrating this momentous occasion and honoring those whose creative achievements so profoundly enrich the lives of everyone.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
AND MRS. BUSH

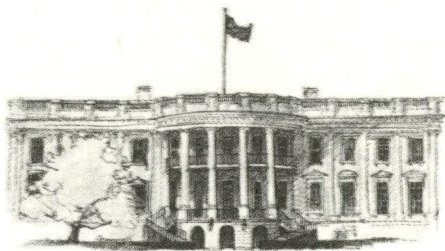
Welcome you to
THE WHITE HOUSE

The United States Navy Sea Chanters

PROGRAM

Performances by International Festival participants representing very Special Arts programs throughout the United States and around the globe, together with supporters from the world of arts and entertainment.

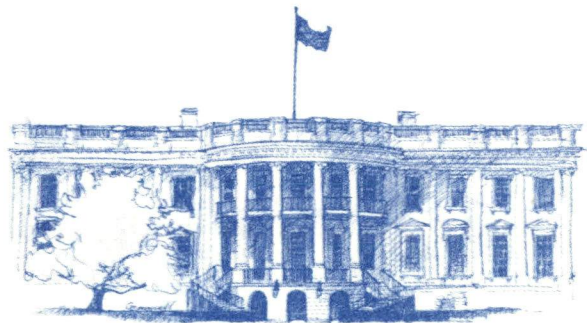
Remarks
Mrs. Jean Kennedy Smith
Founder



The International



VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL



THE WHITE HOUSE

Thursday, June 15, 1989