

Community Attention Turns to Arts

By JULIE CANDLER
Special Writer

Birmingham will shine a flattering spotlight on all of the arts, then rally around and applaud them for eight days, starting Saturday.

The show will be the fourth annual Birmingham Arts Festival. Its planners believe it will be the biggest hit of all because new features are being added to traditions from previous festivals, such as store window art exhibitions.

Increasing community interest, activity and know-how goes into the festival each year. Already it is recognized as the state's outstanding arts festival.

This year, a record sum of more than \$25,000 is being invested to stage the big event.

THE GEODESIC dome which was new to last year's festival returns to Shain Park in 1961 with an impressive schedule of eight nightly performances and two matinees.

Art entries for 1961 more than doubled last year's total as the 1961 festival initiated the awarding of \$900 in prizes. The city will be converted into a veritable picture gallery when downtown merchants display the paintings, sculpture and craftwork in their windows.

The festival, sponsored annually by the Bloomfield Art Association, has become a community-wide effort, according to General Chairman Robert R. Owen.

Proceeds from this year's event will help to establish a Birmingham Art Center in a building which formerly housed the city's sewage disposal plant.

THE EIGHT-DAY festival's main features are the city-wide art exhibitions and programs in the 1,000-seat geodesic dome, which will open this year with nationally-known folk singer Odetta.

Metropolitan Opera star Eileen Farrell drew enthusiastic applause from more than 1,000 people when she opened the festival season June 4 in a concert at Birmingham Theatre.

The annual \$100-a-couple Arts Festival ball tomorrow will provide a gala send-off for events which begin with official opening ceremonies at 2:30 p. m. Saturday in the dome.

Artists are turning Bloomfield Hills Country Club into a modern-day Mount Olympus for the fund-raising ball, labeled "A Night with the Gods (and Goddesses)."

A 40-BY-60-foot tent to be set up near downtown Shain Park will house a Festival Art Market where items priced at \$50 or less will be on sale from 10 a. m. to 6 p. m. daily.

In a nearby tent, artists and craftsmen—from potters and jewelry-makers to wood sculptors—will demonstrate their skills each afternoon.

A tent titled "Children in the Round" will be centered in Shain Park. Inside it will be an exhibit of young artists' work, and children will work each afternoon on mosaic, painting, sculpture and drawing projects.

Among the 11 special art exhibitions to be on view throughout the Birmingham-Bloomfield area during the festival is one titled "Transition."

It will be the first exhibition in the new Birmingham Art Center, the former sewage plant at 1516 S. Cranbrook. It has undergone preliminary remodeling in preparation for the festival.

"TRANSITION" will point up the development of four important artists. They are painters Larissa Oby, Gerald Mast and Owen Brainard and sculptor Tom McClure.

Initiated with this year's festival is a tour of artists' studios. From noon to 5 p. m. Wednesday, June 21, hostesses will be on hand to guide visitors through the studios of 10 major artists.

Tickets to the studio tours are available at The Village Bookshelf, Alban's, Green's, The Little Gallery and Sunley Brothers Music Co.

The geodesic dome has been stretched across a blocked-off street alongside Shain Park. Inside it, the arts of music, drama and literature will be featured.

ODETTA WILL sing folk songs on opening night Saturday, June 17, and devote her Sunday evening program to the blues.

On Monday, June 19, the Livonia-Redford Theatre Guild presents "The Dark at the Top of the Stairs" by William Inge. The theatre group's production was adjudged the best show in the recent drama festival held by the Detroit-Windsor Theatre Council.

The famous bpipers of the Essex and Kent Scottish pipe band and the colorful Ukrainian Bandurists chorus will provide a third evening of music Tuesday night, June 20.

Wednesday night's feature will be "The Golden Age of Comedy," a film reviewing the art and the humor of pioneer filmdom's immortal clowns.

POETRY TAKES the stage Thursday night, June 22, when W. D. Spodgrass will read his latest other works. The Pulitzer prize winner will be joined on the platform by local poetry lovers reading their favorites.

A two-night jazz concert follows on Friday and Saturday, June 23 and 24. On Friday, jazz musicians who performed at last year's Birmingham Arts Festival will pay tribute to one of their number, vibes artist Lem Winchester, who died in an accident last winter.

Jazz concert co-chairman Bob Maxwell, well-known radio and TV personality, will be master of ceremonies at "The Lem Winchester Memorial Night". Drummer J. C. Heard will preside over the Saturday night concert, which features Jimmy Wilkins and his 16-piece band, along with other top jazz artists.

ALL EVENING events are at 8:40 p. m. except for the movie, which begins at 9 p. m.

A special matinee in the dome at 2:30 p. m. Wednesday, June 21, will cover the art of gourmet cooking. It will be conducted by Philip Velez, executive chef of the London Chop House and Caucus Club.

At 2 p. m. Thursday, June 22, the Vanguard Players will present their new musical for children, "Bumbles."

The average cost of tickets for the events in the dome is \$2.50, with some slightly higher or lower.

Tickets to the events in the geodesic dome are available at Grinnell's downtown apt in Birmingham and at the arts festival headquarters in the Harlan Building on Shain Park.

"Goldplate" season tickets will entitle their holders to special seats to be set up at the front of the stands.

Studios to Open Doors for Tours, During Festival

By SHIRLEY ADAMS
Women's Editor

A home built around a studio will open its doors to visitors Wednesday from noon until 5 p. m.

Mildred Williams, 555 Baldwin Court, Birmingham, will be among the 10 artists who open their studios in conjunction with the Birmingham Arts Festival.

A portrait painter, Miss Williams is an instructor at the Bloomfield Art Association. She studied with John Wicker of Detroit and later received a scholarship to the Art Students League of New York.

WHILE IN New York she studied with Robert Henri and a few years later went to Paris and opened a studio.

Also open will be the studios of Mr. and Mrs. James and Betty Conn, 30885 Southfield, Birmingham.

Designed by Mr. Conn, his architectural studio is at one end and his wife, sculptress and mosaicist dominates the other. Visitors will view "wax painting", done with melted crayons and candles.

MRS. HERMAN LINN, 1522 Kirkway, Bloomfield Hills, a weaver, studies the techniques of craftsmanship and has a five-foot loom which will be on display at her home.

Internationally known ceramists and teachers, Mr. and Mrs. John Foster of 1166 N. Woodward, Birmingham, will open their studio to guests.

Other artists opening their studios are Samuel Cashwan, nationally known sculptor, 21325 Rensselaer, Farmington; Iona Wilcox, silversmith and enameleer, 250 W. Maplehurst, Ferndale; Malcolm Moran and Don Buby, designers and sculptors in metal, 188 N. Hunter Blvd.; Johnson-Shirk, advertising artists and photographers, 1330 Coolidge Road, Birmingham; Charles Balogh, painter and designer, 1027 Westover Drive and Jane

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Keep This Section Handy

To Witness Art, See Displays of Artists' Work

By LES LANGLOIS
City Editor

"Art," it is said, "is both in the artist and in the work of art—in the one as cause, in the other as effect."

Next week Birmingham's Arts Festival will provide an opportunity to witness the interaction of this cause and effect relationship as over 180 artists display and demonstrate more than 260 works of art.

COMBINING THEIR talents for Birmingham's fourth cultural fair sponsored by the Bloomfield Art Association, painters, sculptors, weavers, silversmiths, potters, jewelers and ceramists, have submitted over 500 entries which will decorate the windows of 132 participating retail stores.

Reflecting the skill, imagination and knowledge of man, over twice as many entries as last year will portray what is said to make the difference between civilized and primitive society art.

OFFERING SOMETHING of everything, the festival is designed for the curious and the delirious.

For the curious who seek art in action, demonstrations will be held in a big tent on Kresge's parking lot and tours will be conducted of various Birmingham artists' studios.

For the delirious who appreciate art exhibits, store window displays will decorate Birmingham's central business district.

ALTHOUGH DISPLAYS will continue throughout the seven-day festival, demonstrations will be held from 1 to 4 p. m. daily within the demonstration tent and studio tours will be conducted from noon to 5 p. m. on June 21.

Hours of special exhibits and demonstrations will be posted in the free program pamphlets to be distributed during the festival.

DISPLAYS SUCH as a 12-foot window exhibit at Wilson Drug Co., featuring Wilson's collection of antique mortars and pestles as a motif to set-off paintings and sculpture, a French sidewalk cafe lining the Machus Bakery and Kay Baum

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Call It Concentration

The concentration on art demonstrated by Birmingham residents Kathy deMeules (left) and Tina Owen is typical of what will happen June 17-24 when the community focuses attention on all of the arts. Kathy, 18, of 1836 Oak St., and Tina, 9, of 564 Fairfax, were in the center of the hustle and bustle at 583 W. Maple Saturday when the last of more than 1,500 entries were being accepted for the festival art market and exhibitions.

Dome Events Offer Variety for Family

By JOE CADARIU
Staff Writer

Culture-conscious Birmingham Saturday becomes the scene of a modern day Chautauqua.

Unlike the days past when such affairs were held entirely outdoors, the indoor events of the Birmingham Arts Festival will be held in a gleaming, gold-braced geodesic dome, June 17-24 at Shain Park in downtown Birmingham.

The festival is sponsored by the Bloomfield Art Association.

First on the platform inside the dome which seats 800 people will be folk-singing Odetta.

Carrying a repertoire ranging from film acting ("Sanctuary") to singing of old and new blues and folk songs, the negro singer is noted for her emotional interpretations.

Odetta will sing both Saturday and Sunday. The first concert will be devoted to folk songs while Sunday's will feature the blues with accompaniment by the Fred Kaz trio.

The folk-singer, who during a recent concert filled the 2300-seat Ford Auditorium in Detroit, will lead off a week-long schedule that includes drama, poetry, film

classics, a gourmet matinee and a daytime production for children.

The dome events end with a two-night jazz concert June 23 and 24.

An honors-winning dramatic production will follow Odetta on Monday when the Livonia-Redford Theatre Guild presents, "The Dark at the Top of the Stairs," by William Inge.

The theatre group's production was adjudged the best show in the recent drama festival held by the Detroit-Windsor Theatre Council.

Howard Egan, playing Rubin Flood, won the festival's "Best Actor" award while co-worker Shirley Otis, who portrayed the wife in the Livonia-Redford production, was runnerup for best actress. Another L-R star, Chris Bradley, placed second in the race for best actor. Bradley played the role of the son.

A change of pace takes place Tuesday night when the stage becomes the setting for the famous bpipers of the Essex Scottish Regiment and the colorful Ukrainian Bandurists chorus. Both groups are noted for interpretation of music of their native lands.

The 36-man Bandurist chorus, which

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