

Impersonator Billy Finch Commands 'Respect'

Performer Is Rodney Dangerfield, Sinatra, Others
at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre on Oct. 6

Unlike Rodney Dangerfield, this performer commands respect. Montgomery County native Billy Finch, described as a "must have" entertainer, is one of the most popular impressionists/impersonators in the country. One of his hit shows boasts of a *Caddyshack* theme during golf tournaments, including PGA events, where he puts on a Rodney Dangerfield act like no other.

For his efforts, Finch has earned an RCA Rodney Dangerfield Look-A-Like/Sound-A-Like Award.

Finch and his wife, Carol, spend a great deal of time traveling around the country performing at corporate golf events, as well as regular shows in venues such as the Riviera in Las Vegas.

Come Friday, Oct. 6, at 8 p.m., the couple will have the opportunity to perform in front of family and friends as they kickoff their first show in Montgomery County at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville's Civic Center Park.



Not to be missed: Nationally-known Impersonator Billy Finch (above as Rodney Dangerfield) will bring his 'Musical Comedy Legends Show' to Rockville which includes such stars as Frank Sinatra (left) and Elvis Presley (below) when he entertains the audience at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre on Oct. 6.

Kennedy Center and for three presidents at the White House, but the one-time resident of the Twinbrook area of Rockville said performing at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is just something a little more special.

"The Theatre is so nice," he said. "The staff is friendly, and they take so much pride in it. We are looking forward to performing there – especially with all the new upgrades."

Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$13 for students or seniors. Tickets are available by calling the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre Box Office at 240-314-8690, or



"We rarely do shows in our own backyard," said Billy Finch, who claims Rockville's own RedGate Golf Course as his home course. "It's a great thing to have family and friends come who haven't seen us perform in years. My parents are even coming down from Rhode Island to see it."

Tickets are still available for the "Musical Comedy Legends Show," where Finch will sing the songs of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Louis Armstrong, Ray Charles, Johnny Cash and more. There may even be an appearance by "Minerva," played by Carol, who often performs with her husband.

Finch's performances are highly acclaimed, and include accolades from Arch Campbell of WRC/NBC TV who described his singing and musical style of Frank Sinatra as, "right on the money." *The Washington Post* described Finch's show as "musical, hilarious and family-friendly."

Finch has performed at Wolf Trap, The



by visiting www.ticketleap.com. For more information about the performance visit www.rockvillemd.gov, or Finch's site at www.billyfinch.com.

"Thank you, thank you very much." ■



U.S. NAVY BAND'S CHAMBER ENSEMBLE COMES TO ROCKVILLE ...The U.S. Navy Band's Chamber Ensemble will perform at Glenview Mansion on Sunday, Oct. 1, at 2 p.m. as part of the Sunday Afternoon Concert Series to celebrate the opening of the October exhibit at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.

Four artists will present their work throughout the month, including Helen Corning ("Haiku Paintings," acrylic on canvas), Tory Cowles ("Food for the Eye," acrylic on canvas), Sandra L.H. Woolck ("Black and White in Living Color," fiber arts) and Xiaosheng Bi (fine porcelain vessels).

There will be an opening reception from 1-4 p.m. on Oct. 1. On Thursday, Oct. 19, the artists will gather for a talk at Glenview Mansion at 7:30 p.m. All events are free. For more information, call 240-314-8682.

New Workshops Highlight FSF Literary Conference

Oct. 14 Sessions Will Interest 'Late Bloomers,'
Screenwriters, Travel Writers and Others

Two-time Emmy Award winner Michael Olmert plans on keeping his "Screenwriting" workshop simple during this year's F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference on Saturday, Oct. 14, at Montgomery College.

Olmert, the author of four books, two plays and more than 80 TV documentaries, is a professor of English at the University of Maryland and said he is honored to be included in this year's conference lineup, which includes four Pulitzer Prize winners (see story on FOTA page 1) and a legacy of other award winning writers.

But for Olmert, who has worked with actors Richard Dreyfuss, Stockard Channing and Martin Sheen to name a few, the key to his workshop is simplicity.

"It's guaranteed to be fun," Olmert said. "We will look at movies and see what they [participants] like. The key to screenwriting is that it has to be as natural as possible. It's drama. That is what people want."

Olmert also will emphasize three main elements of screenwriting: Words, music and images.

"Screenwriting is never a speech or an essay," Olmert said.

Many times writers have a point of view to get across, but words alone do not cut it, Olmert said. To be effective, the work should be surprising and unpredictable in nature.

Olmert is one of the workshop leaders who will accept sample manuscripts from participants the day of the conference.

Also accepting manuscripts is "Mystery" workshop leader Marcia Talley, an Agatha and Anthony Award winning author. The Mystery workshop is new to the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference this year and is

expected to be quite popular.

Also new to the Conference is Katharine Davis, who will lead the "Midlife Writing/Late Bloomers" workshop, and C.M. Mayo, who will lead a workshop on "Travel Writing."

For more information on workshops and presenters, see page 2 of *Focus on the Arts*. ■

"It's guaranteed to be fun."

— Michael Olmert, two-time Emmy award-winner

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