The mission of the Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy is to continue the Legacy of Red Skelton through inspiration and education.

Tough Start

Red Skelton was born Richard Skelton in Waverly, IN on July 19, 1916. He never knew his father, Joe, a grocer and one-time circus clown, who died shortly before Red was born, leaving Ida Skelton to raise four boys on her own. Times were tough. As a cleaning lady, Ida likely had trouble making ends meet. Red helped out by selling newspapers and other odd jobs. When he was able, he money, he paid old expenses and saved...
Notes from our Chairman
Dr. Phillip M. Summers

The clock is ticking!

We are now on the downside of the construction of the Red Skelton Museum Exhibits and archival space. The Grand Opening is scheduled for July 18 which is the 100th anniversary of the birth of Red Skelton. The Steve Feldman Museum Exhibit Design Company is working closely with the fabricator of the exhibits and the interior construction company to have a high quality Red Skelton Museum. The museum will celebrate comedy and humor as seen through Red’s life and love of making people laugh.

The Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy’s Grand Opening is presented in more detail in another section of this newsletter. However, the important thing is you do not want to miss this Grand Opening Special celebration. Mrs. Skelton will be present to open the Museum and there will be a special performance by Tom Mullica who is featured in the Branson, MO “Tribute to Red Skelton” production. Also, a special friend of Red’s will be part of the Grand Opening theatrical performance. That special friend is Jamie Farr of M.A.S.H. fame who has many stories to tell about his friendship with Red Skelton and their years on TV.

Mark your calendar for both the Red Skelton Festival on June 6 through 8 and the Red Skelton Museum Grand Opening on July 18. The excitement of the Red Skelton Museum Board and Staff continues to build as we see more details about the Museum design and exhibits. The Museum interior construction continues on a daily basis and the design and fabrication of the exhibits are being completed. We’ve been told by the design staff and fabricators that touring the Museum will be a fun experience for all ages!

Yes, we are on the “count down”, and you have our invitation to be part of the Red Skelton Festival and the Grand Opening of the Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy!

The Red Skelton Museum Board members thank everyone who has donated to the Red Skelton Museum project and participated in the fundraising events. We hope you will become a member of the Red Skelton Museum “friends” and continue the effort to support positive and family oriented humor as we pay tribute to a Hoosier who was considered one of the most famous entertainers of the 20th century.

As Red always stated at the end of his TV Show, “May God Bless”!

Red’s Dream Team

Red’s Dream Team is composed of local volunteers dedicated to the memory of Red Skelton, Vincennes’ finest son. The Dream Team helps with all Red Skelton Museum related events and activities and gift shop operations. To be a part of this exciting group, contact Anne Pratt at (812) 888-2105 or email apratt@vinu.edu.

Red Skelton Museum Foundation Board of Directors

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RSM Grand Opening
Membership Opportunities
Red Festival in Vincennes
Run for the Roses Event
Museum Tells Red’s Story
Collection Feature
Healthy Humor Partnership Formed

It is with great pleasure that we announce the formation of a unique, collaborative relationship between the Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy and AATH – the Association of Applied and Therapeutic Humor. Both organizations are strategically aligned in their love of and support for compassionate humor and healthy laughter.

A multi-talented entertainer, humanitarian and patriot, Red Skelton’s professional and personal life colorfully exemplified that philosophy. The Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy will continue the Red’s Legacy of Laughter through inspiration and education. And, for 25 years, AATH has served as an international community of professionals dedicated to the study, practice and promotion of healthy humor and laughter.

AATH is a leader in providing evidence based information about current research and practical applications of humor and laughter in the world today. AATH shares information and “best practices” with the people who work directly and indirectly in our pillar communities. In AATH, you will find nurses and physicians, psychologists, social workers, researchers, therapists, caring clowns and authors who have literally “written the book” on the emerging field of therapeutic humor.

Both organizations are strategically aligned in their love of and support for compassionate humor and healthy laughter.

This combination of organizationally aligned energies will make possible the potential for in-depth educational and training opportunities. AATH has just announced that their Annual Conference, “Healthy Humor: What is it, Where to find it, Who needs it …and Why?” will be held in Vincennes, Indiana, the home of the Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy, April 3-6, 2014.

www.aath.org

Red Skelton Caring Clown Scholarship

As part of the partnership with AATH, The Red Skelton Museum Foundation and Jim McCormick have sponsored the Red Skelton Caring Clown Scholarship.

This scholarship pays the AATH conference registration fee for a worthy applicant who exhibits traits of which Red would be proud. The first winner of that scholarship was Cheryl Ann Oberg. As you read some of her words from her application essay, you will understand why she was the clear choice to be the first recipient of the Red Skelton Caring clown Scholarship. “In 2001, I attended my first AATH Conference in San Diego where I met Patty Wooten, Shobi Dobi and so many other incredible mentors. My life was forever changed from that moment on as I had finally found my humor family! Through AATH, I have had the opportunity to lead others in Caring Clown Rounds with seniors living in care facilities across the USA. Since 2004, I have been Sparkle a Therapeutic Clown at the Alberta Children’s Hospital. I love sharing laughter, joy, compassion and wonder with the children, youth and their families, where I offer distraction strategies to help patients cope with medical procedures, treatments and hospitalization on an inpatient and outpatient basis. I provide compassionate comic relief and social and emotional support to everyone involved in Family Centered Care, as I work closely with other members of the pediatric healthcare team. Frequently, I am invited to present Humor & Laughter FUNshops to other healthcare teams and community organizations. Humor, storytelling, improvisation, face painting, puppetry, magic tricks, music, dancing and Laughter Yoga are some of the tools I use to instill hope and elicit laughter.

...now I knew that I could become a clown just like Red Skelton whenever I wanted!”

My first clown nose was discovered in a cherry tree in 1962 when I was three years old. As I bit that big juicy cherry in half, it looked like the perfect clown nose for me. I turned it around and around on my nose but it would not stay on. So I ate it! When I went into the house, my Mom asked “What happened to your nose?” When I looked into the mirror, there it was. The cherry had stained my nose and now I knew that I could become a clown just like Red Skelton whenever I wanted! My stepfather was diagnosed with a brain tumor in spring of 1995 and he loved it when I would come and visit him as Miss Loosie the clown. He would say “Looooseie you’ve got some explainin’ to do!”

After he passed away, I began volunteering weekly at Hospice Calgary as a Caring Clown. I am so privileged to work with people in end of life care as well as the day programs for those living with Cancer. I have learned so much about living from those who are leaving. When I returned from my first AATH conference in 2001, I founded Calgary’s Caring Clown Association. In May, we invited Patch Adams to come to Calgary and share his journey with us. Patch taught us how to live a life of joy and never have another bad day!

I was soon volunteering over 2,000 community hours a year for the Canadian Red Cross, Families Matter, Kids Cancer Care Foundation and the Alberta Children’s Hospital. Now I am a Caring Clown leader, mentor & educator to many other groups across Canada. It all started with a compassionate caring clown on our little black and white TV. His name was RED! This is my life’s dream job and it has been designed perfectly for me! I dreamed the life I wanted to live and now I am joyfully living it in full color!”
Tickets go on sale June 1, 2013

$100 - VIP includes reception with appetizers and wine, prior to the show, with Lothian Skelton. Commemorative pin, premier seating and dessert reception after the show and self-guided tours of the museum throughout the evening.

$50 – Patron includes commemorative pin, priority seating and dessert reception after the show and unguided tours of the museum throughout the evening.

$30 – General Admission includes general seating and dessert reception after the show and self-guided tours of the museum throughout the evening.

Evening Time Schedule

5:30 - Ribbon Cutting

6:00 PM - Museum open for tours
Tours will continue until 10:00 PM except during the show time.

6:00 PM - Cocktail reception with Lothian
Includes appetizers and wine for VIP ticket holders in the Red Skelton Performing Arts Center

7:30 PM - Show begins with welcome from Lothian, followed by stories about Red from actor Jamie Farr, a long-time friend of Red and impersonations of Red by Tom Mullica.
Music provided by Sally Harmon and Frank Gruner.

8:30 PM - Dessert reception following the show on the grounds outside the Museum.

8:30 PM - Museum tours continue until 10:00 PM

The Celebration Continues...

Senior Day — Friday, July 19th Free entrance to museum for anyone over 60 years old. Will include special events for seniors including taping a video blog of “Red Stories” that people can add to our collection.

Family Day — Saturday, July 20th All Kids 18 and under get in free when accompanied by a parent. Special kids events in the Theater Lab featuring hands-on activities about comedy, humor and laughter.
Membership Opportunities

Your membership supports programs and artifact preservation efforts which educate, illuminate and document Red Skelton’s Legacy of Laughter.

Membership Levels:

Junior: The Mean Widdle Kid – $15
(Student/College)

Freddie the Freeloader – $25
(Individual/Senior Citizen)

George Appleby – $50
(Family)

Cauliflower McPugg – $100
(Contributing)

Sheriff Deadeye – $250
(Sustaining)

San Fernando Red – $500
(Patron)

MEMBER BENEFITS: (by level)

Junior & Freddie
(Student/Individual/Senior Citizen)
art print
admission for 1 per visit

George Appleby (Family)
art print
newsletter
admission for 4 per visit

Cauliflower McPugg (Contributing)
art print
newsletter
10% museum store discount
admission for 6 per visit

Sheriff Deadeye (Sustaining)
art print
newsletter
10% museum store discount
admission for 8 per visit

San Fernando Red (Patron)
all benefits
behind-the-scenes tours
admission for 10 per visit

Your support is greatly appreciated. For your convenience, use the attached envelope for your membership submission. Your completed form will be processed and membership card(s) will be mailed to the address provided.

Join Today!

20 Red Skelton Blvd., Vincennes, Indiana 47591 • www.redskeltonmuseum.org
Annual Red Skelton Festival

Your Ticket to a Great Time! June 5th-8th

Wednesday, June 5th

5-8pm Hobo Day & Bath Tub Races
Red Skelton Mural, 3rd & Vigo
Sponsored by: First Vincennes Savings Bank with the Boy Scouts

Thursday, June 6th

6-8pm Red’s 100th Birthday Party
Don Bell Recreation Center VU Campus
Free Family Fun including Inflatables.
Sponsored by: Old National Bank

Friday, June 7th

Noon Real Clown Pie Fight
Red Skelton Performing Arts Center Rear Lawn
Public invited to watch or participate!

6pm Cornerstone Ceremony
Masonic Grand Lodge of Indiana
Red Skelton Performing Arts Center Entrance

7pm Red Skelton Follies
Red Skelton Performing Arts Center VU Campus
Enjoy a Family Fun Variety Show!! For Tickets call 812-888-4039.
Sponsored by: 92.1 WZDM & The Bullet 106.5 WWBL

Saturday, June 8th

9-3pm Paint the Town Red Festival - Patrick Henry Square
Food, fun and entertainment for the whole family!

11am Red’s Pledge & Parade of Clowns
Downtown Vincennes
The most colorful and entertaining clown parade in America!

12:30 Entertainment on Stage - Jr. Joey Graduation
Stage at Patrick Henry Square

1pm Donut Eating Contest
Stage at Patrick Henry Square
Adult & Youth Divisions. Sponsored by Willow Manor

1:30 Clown Beauty Contest
Stage at Patrick Henry Square
Come and see local dignitaries transformed into clowns!

4-7pm Red Skelton Film Festival
Fortnightly Club, 421 North 6th Street

Red’s Run for the Roses

2013

Raised over $19,000!
Telling the Story of Red

How do you best celebrate the life of a man who gave so much to the world - a courageous, generous and compassionate man whose main ambition was to make people laugh? We think the most fitting tribute is to gather together the material evidence of this man's existence and unfold the tremendous life story of the unforgettable legend of Red Skelton.

The creation of The Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy will ensure that countless generations now and in the future know and appreciate his life.

The life of a man is a collection of experiences, triumphs and heartbreak. When the lifetime of the man spans the 20th century, you have quite a story to tell. When the man in question is a born comedian with the ambition, talent and overwhelming desire to serve humanity with his talents then the story becomes a tale of inspiration and dream fulfillment.

Each decade of Red's life was marked by his unique contributions to the world. In the 1930's he traveled the vaudeville circuit and acted as the master of ceremonies at dancethons (called walkathons at that time) which distracted the populace from the deprivations caused by the Great Depression. In the 1940's, Red served as an entertainer with the USO keeping the morale of the troops high as the war dragged on longer than anyone had expected. In the 1950's Red launched his television variety show and became a virtual member of the American family as he introduced his cast of hilarious yet wholesome characters into the living rooms across the nation. By the 1960's Red's historic interpretation of the Pledge of Allegiance refocused society's attention on patriotism and the obligations of being a good citizen.

Not only did Red's comedic message evolve over time to suit the needs of the populace, but the scope of his comedy also expanded as he honed his talents and expanded his network of sidekicks and guest stars. From Johnny Carson to Lucille Ball, Red shared the stage and screen with countless comic geniuses whose combined talents helped the field of comedy remain relevant and fresh to audiences.

Comedians of the modern age such as Steve Martin, Jim Carrey, and Chris Farley continue the tradition of physical comedy for which Red was so well known in the same way that Red was inspired by Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin and Ed Wynn.

Despite their focus on frivolity, comedians serve a very significant role in our society. They remind us all not to take life too seriously. Their particular talent lies in their ability to provide alternative viewpoints which often inject levity into stressful and unpleasant situations, thereby defusing potentially threatening situations. Red's collective body of work is a bridge between the comedians of the past, the present and the future.

Red's Visual Appeal

They say that "a picture is worth a thousand words". This colloquialism has never been more accurate than when it is applied to the face of Red Skelton. With the simplest gesture - a raised eyebrow, a squinted eye, a half smirk - Red was able to inspire hilarity and spontaneous laughter in stage, screen and television audiences.

Red's visual appeal is the inspiration for the design of "Legacy of Laughter" exhibit gallery. As you enter the gallery, you will experience the "thousand faces of Red" as you enjoy a veritable kaleidoscope of colors, sounds and sensations that prepare you for a truly enjoyable visit. There is nothing quite like the power of laughter to relieve stress and exercise the soul.

Whether this is your first introduction to Red or, a nostalgic journey to your childhood memories of this master of comedy, the "Legacy of Laughter" exhibit will enlighten, educate and entertain you and your family. Plan to join us for the Grand Opening on July 18th!
Upcoming Events

• RED SKELTON FESTIVAL  
  **JUNE 5-8, 2013**  
  Four days of fun events, including bathtub races, the world’s biggest birthday party, clown pie fights, the Red Skelton Follies and a special dedication by the Masons. All this culminates with the Parade of Clowns on Saturday followed by a fun family festival. Contact the Vincennes/Knox County CVB at (812)886-0400 or visit www.vincennescvb.org for more information. Also, parade registration information can be found at www.redskeltonmuseum.org or call 812-888-2105.

• GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION  
  **THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2013**  
  Be there when we open the doors to the Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy. A special grand opening celebration featuring Mrs. Lothian Skelton, Red’s close friend Jamie Farr and Red impersonator, Tom Mullica. For ticket information contact Anne Pratt at apratt@vinu.edu or 812-888-2105.

• SCRAMBLE FOR RED GOLF TOURNAMENT  
  **OCTOBER 11, 2013**  
  The Red Skelton Museum Foundation is pleased to offer you a great day of golf, friendship and fun at the Country Club of Old Vincennes. The fee to play in the golf event is $65 per player ($260/team of four). Your entry fee includes cart, green fees, lunch, snacks, beverages and prizes for everyone. Multiple sponsorship opportunities also are available. Visit our website or call Anne Pratt at 812-888-2105 for more information.