

news from Hunter

Hunter College of The City University of New York, 695 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021

Contact: Maria Terrone
Hunter College
212/772-4068

Lynn Cariou
M. Booth & Associates
212/736-5050

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SYLVIA FINE KAYE HONORED

FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO HUNTER COLLEGE PLAYHOUSE

New Playhouse Model is Unveiled

NEW YORK, Nov. 1, 1990 -- New York native Sylvia Fine Kaye, widow of Danny Kaye, will be honored today at a champagne reception for her generous contributions towards the renovation of the Hunter College Playhouse.

The new playhouse model is to be unveiled at the reception, which will be attended by prominent people from the arts, society and government. According to Kitty Carlisle Hart, honorary chairman of the playhouse renovation campaign, expected guests include Claire Bloom, Beverly Sills, Betty Comden, Jerome Robbins, Martina Arroyo, Schuyler Chapin, Pauline Trigere, Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden, Congressman Bill Green and former mayor Robert Wagner.

A cultural magnet for local, national and international performing arts talent for 50 years, the Hunter College Playhouse will close its doors for renovation in December. The work will be done by Abramovitz Kingsland Schiff, the prestigious

-more-

architectural firm best known for its design of the Metropolitan Opera House and Philharmonic Hall at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

When the theatre reopens in 1992, refurbished and revitalized, it will be called the Sylvia and Danny Kaye Playhouse.

"I'm very pleased to have Danny's name on a first-class theatre that will help restore Hunter College as a center of the arts," said Mrs. Kaye, who will receive the President's Medal today for outstanding service to the school. Mrs. Kaye, who wrote and produced most of her husband's best-known musical comedies, has used her wide theatrical knowledge to help plan the new theatre.

"Small plays and intimate musicals are totally overpriced on Broadway and have been getting more expensive every year," she said. "The new playhouse will be a first-rate theatre, providing a proper environment for top casts and for trying out new shows."

Among the many great performers who appeared on the playhouse stage are Hunter alumni Regina Resnik and Martina Arroyo, as well as Claire Bloom, Twyla Tharp, Agnes DeMille, Marian Anderson and Martha Graham.

"It is fitting that the reborn playhouse will bear two names renowned throughout the world for superb artistry and dedication to the performing arts," said Paul LeClerc, president of Hunter College.

Smaller in size but comparable in quality to any Broadway theatre, the Sylvia and Danny Kaye Playhouse will provide much-needed performance space to the Upper East Side and the city.

The 664-seat playhouse will combine its original elegance with modern theatre technology. Features include state-of-the-art acoustics and lighting, and a removable acoustical shell for live concert productions. Its stage floor of cross-hatched wood instead of wood on concrete--highly unusual in a theatre--is considered ideal for professional dance performances.