

Oodles of celebrity doodles are the draw at this auction

By TOM JACOBS
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Kirk Douglas, Neil Simon, Beverly Sills, Derek Jacobi, Lily Tomlin, Judd Nelson, Hal Holbrook and Stephen King will not be attending the Back Alley Theater's third annual doodle auction Sunday afternoon.

But each has left his mark on the event.

Tomlin's is a self-portrait in crayon of Edith Ann. Douglas's is a drawing of Vincent Van Gogh, sans left ear. Holbrook's is a portrait of a cigar-smoking Mark Twain.

Each of the aforementioned celebrities — along with more than 90 others — has contributed a doodle to be auctioned at the event, which will begin at 3 p.m. at a private Sherman Oaks estate. Proceeds will benefit the theater.

Other doodles to be auctioned are by Glenda Jackson, Dudley Moore, Liv Ullmann, Norman Lear, Joan Baez, Steve Garvey, Muhammad Ali, Jean Stapleton, Amy Irving, Peter Falk, Jack Lemmon, Rick Moranis and Jessica Tandy. John Huston contributed what may very well have been his final doodle; it is dated July 16, 1987.



THE FACTS

- **What:** The Back Alley Theater's 1987 Doodle Auction.
- **Where:** La Magnolia estate, 13242 Magnolia Blvd., Sherman Oaks.
- **When:** 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday. Auction begins at 4:15 p.m.
- **Admission:** \$35, which includes a buffet lunch, open bar, tours of the estate and a personal caricature. For more information, call (818) 780-2240.

Last year, the theater auctioned off approximately 80 doodles and made \$16,000, according to producing director Laura Zucker. With more than 100 doodles this year, Zucker hopes to take in \$20,000.

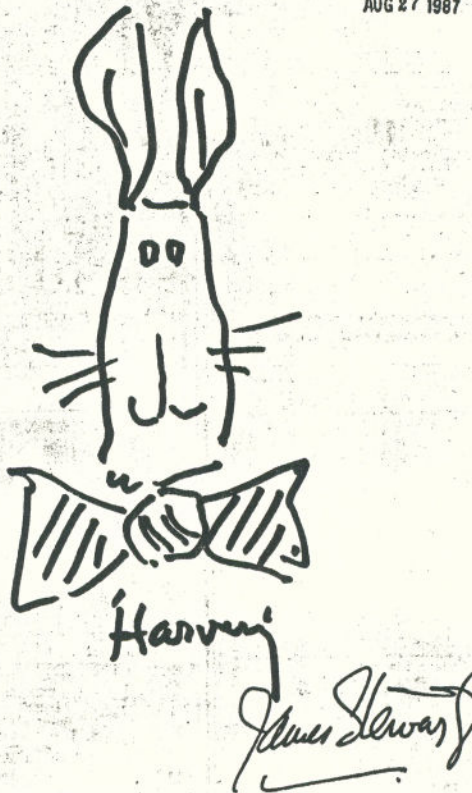
"This is a very important part of our fund-raising plan," she said. "It's one-quarter to one-fifth of our contributed income (for the year)."

Zucker said she and Allan Miller, the theater's other producing director, got the idea for the auction during a trip to San Francisco. The Bay Area Playwrights' Festival was holding a doodle auction, and Zucker and Miller immediately thought the idea would work well for their theater. "We know so many famous people," she said.

"The first year we only asked people we knew," she said. "Last year we started sending out blind requests. We weren't very successful. But this year we've started getting a tremendous response from blind requests."

Zucker is happy about that.

AUG 27 1987



Hal Holbrook's doodle of a cigar-chomping Mark Twain, above, and James Stewart's 6-foot rabbit friend are among the doodles to be auctioned off at Back Alley Theater benefit.

"It's tough to keep asking people for money or time," she noted. "It's easy to ask someone to contribute a doodle."

Tickets, which are \$35, will be available at the event. They are available in advance by calling the theater at (818) 780-2240.