

# Friday Night Video host Tom Kenny will deliver homecoming humor

By Jacqueline Woge  
Emerald Contributor

If Woody Woodpecker and Buddy Holly had a baby, what would the offspring look like? Hint: The "offspring" was born in New York, spouts wit-tiness with a zip reminiscent of Woody's laugh, and was recently named the permanent host of NBC's *Friday Night Videos*.

Still can't imagine what 29-year-old Tom Kenny looks like? Go see for yourself.

Kenny will allow the audience "to ride around" in his head at the combined O'Neill Williams and Hillman rooms of the Eugene Hilton Hotel tonight from 7:30-9 p.m.

The show marks the Second Annual Parents Weekend and Homecoming Comedy Night, which is sponsored by the Student University Relations Council.

"The comedy night was created for students because so many homecoming events were aimed at alumni," said SURC president Karen Fore.

While SURC may have current students in mind, Kenny doesn't aim his shows "at anyone in particular," he said.

"I'll get there early and have a little apple juice in the dressing room," Kenny said, referring to his show preparation. "I'll have 30 cups of coffee. Set my genitals on fire. Listen to some rockability."

Kenny's style has been described as fast-paced and frenetic. "I'm hyper in all respects. I think fast. I even sleep fast," Kenny said.

He also moves up the lad-

der pretty fast. Take his recent naming as *Friday Night Videos* host, for example. "The show started out with little rock 'n' roll editorials with six or seven commentators, and it progressed to being me," Kenny said. "Kinda gradual."

When asked how long he's been with the show, Kenny said, "Five months." "The criteria for the show was that you show up," Kenny said, explaining why he was chosen as the show's permanent host. "Show up and don't sweat."

When asked what it's like for someone to live with a bundle of comedic energy such as himself, Kenny said "I'm on the road a lot."

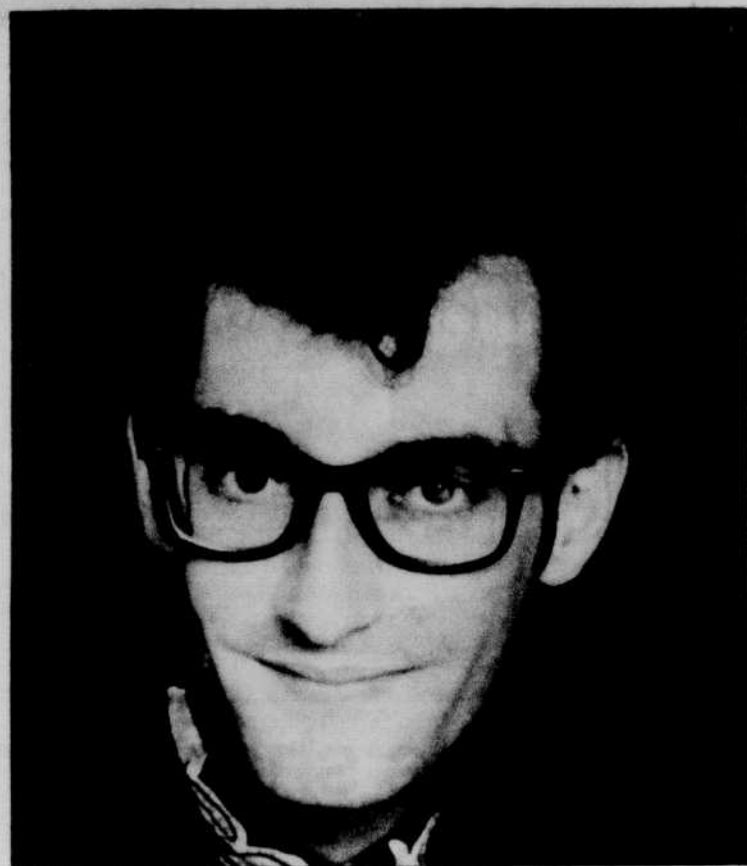
That's a good thing, though, considering that he's now on his way to Eugene. "I'm looking forward to playing a city named after the jeep in the *Popeye* cartoons," said Kenny, who has never visited Eugene or Oregon.

"I'm from smallville, Syracuse, New York," he said. "Eugene's got to be more jumpin' than Syracuse. I love the rain, the fog."

"I love damp, cool, depressing weather, like the daughter in *Beetlejuice*," he said.

Prior to his video host position, Kenny wrote for the television show *America's Funniest People*. "It was like sitting around with your friends being goofy," he said. "It's much more like the old *Dick Van Dyke* show than I expected."

And before that, well, he was just a kid with unpolished ambitions. "They [his



Tom Kenny will bring his own brand of comedy to the Hilton tonight at 7:30 p.m. Courtesy Photo

ambitions) were pretty vague," Kenny said. "I knew what I didn't want to do. I didn't want to be one of those people with suits that crams on buses and subways every day."

"I was always doing comic strips for my friends, although standup was the last thing on 'Stuff that's unintentionally funny makes me laugh,'" Kenny said. "People who are really passionate about goofy causes. All these dumb theme parks like Gatorworld USA, Old Groucho Marx stuff. Kids doing practically anything before they're old enough to get self-conscious."

my mind," he said. "In Boston, some friends pushed me into going on an open mike."

But there's more to comedians than punch lines and laughs, he said. "The tears of the clown have been blown out of proportion," Kenny said, referring to the real personalities inside comedians.

Other SURC-sponsored activities have included a free dance and last week's lawn decorating contest between University dormitories and greek houses.

For Kenny's homecoming performance, Lane Transit District is offering free round-trip shuttle service from the EMU at 13th Ave. and University St. Rides depart at 6:30 and 7 p.m. and return immediately after the show.

Tickets are available for \$6.30 at the EMU Main Desk.

# Seasons of Song:

## George Winston will bring winter show to Eugene, mixing in bits of current *Summer* album

### S.H.O.W.-T-I-M-E

MUSIC: George Winston, acclaimed pianist, will perform at 8 p.m. in the Hult Center's Silva Concert Hall Monday, Nov. 4. Tickets, selling for \$17 reserved and \$14 students and seniors, may be purchased at the EMU Main Desk or by calling the box office at 687-5000. Promoters ask that concertgoers join Winston in support of Food for Lane County by bringing a donation of canned food to the concert.



Some call Winston a man of many seasons. Not because he's one to run through leaf piles or bask in the sun, but because he's one to release seasonal-titled albums, one after the other.

His latest album, released Oct. 8, fits the pattern perfectly. With past albums such as *Autumn* and *Winter Into Spring*, Winston followers might have even guessed what he'd call this one. And if they'd guessed *Summer*, they would have been right. *Summer* it is.

"This album was influenced mainly by Montana, where I spent many years, growing up and where I tour every year or two," Winston said in a written statement.

The new album, which contains 15 pieces, features the music of many composers, as well as Winston himself. "The single most influential musician for this recording was the great Montana composer-pianist, Phillip Aaberg," Winston said in a written statement.

For that reason, Winston chose to incorporate some Aaberg compositions into *Summer*. He also included the works of such composers as Pete Seeger, Randy Newman and Art Lande.

**'He plays the piano, some rhythm and blues, but he also plays a little guitar and a little harmonica'**

—Bob Greeneisen  
*Dancing Cats marketing coordinator*

For Winston, however, the story goes back much further than any of the seasonal albums he's released. It began

in Miami in 1967. He had just finished high school, and feeling inspired by blues, rock, jazz and rhythm and blues, he decided to take to the organ and the electric piano.

Then, two years later, he found himself caught up in Fats Waller's piano music. From there on out, Winston has been a pianist.

From then until now, he's kept himself busy. Via nine of his own albums, including four soundtracks and seven albums where he contributed as a guest artist, Winston has had nothing short of a busy piano life.

He's even incorporated other instruments into his concert repertoire. "He plays the piano, some rhythm and blues, but he also plays a little guitar and a little harmonica," said Bob Greeneisen, marketing coordinator for Dancing Cats, the promotion company

for Winston's concerts as well as Winston's record production company.

And his Eugene show isn't any different. "He'll be doing his winter show in Eugene," Greeneisen said. "He'll play cuts off his *December* album, a cut or two from the new album, and play some guitar and harmonica too."

"We were there (in Eugene) two years ago, and the show went really well," he said. "George has a great following in the Northwest."

Winston will start his Northwest tour Nov. 2 in Medford. From there, he'll do three more Oregon dates, move into Washington, and then close the tour in Portland on Nov. 21. "George is always on tour," Greeneisen said. "He tours pretty extensively." As for now, though,

Winston will start his Northwest tour Nov. 2 in Medford. From there, he'll do three more Oregon dates, move into Washington, and then close the tour in Portland on Nov. 21. "George is always on tour," Greeneisen said. "He tours pretty extensively." As for now, though, that's as far into the future as his schedule goes.



There's no telling, then, where he'll be years from now, whether he'll be picking a guitar or playing a piano or both. The chances are good, however, that he'll be doing music — season after season.

By Layne Lakefish  
Emerald Entertainment Editor

## ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

### SONG AND DANCE

**FRIDAY, NOV. 1**  
Croby, Stills & Nash will perform at 8 p.m. in the Hult Center's Silva Concert Hall. Tickets, selling for \$23.50 or \$50, can be purchased at the EMU Main Desk or by calling the box office at 687-5000.

The Dave O'Toole Group will perform its jazz music from 8:30-7:30 p.m. at Simon's Off Broadway, 30 E. Broadway. The event is free, and beer, wine and food will be available.

The Annual Homecoming Concert, put on by the School of Music, will take place at 8 p.m. in Beall Concert Hall, 901 E. 18th Ave. The concert will spotlight four student ensembles, and admission is free.

The Reggae All-Stars will perform from 5-7 p.m. at the Beer Garden in the EMU courtyard. Admission is free, and proof of age is required.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 2**  
Moscow Virtuosi will perform at 8 p.m. in the Hult Center's Silva Concert Hall. They will be performing an all-Mozart program, in honor of the 200th commemoration of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's death. Included will be "Concerto for Oboe in C," "Concerto for Violin No. 2," "Symphony No. 29 in A" and "Symphony No. 24 in B flat." Tickets range in price from \$15 to \$25, with limited student and senior discounts available. Tickets can be purchased at the EMU Main Desk or by calling the box office at 687-5000.

The Saturday Market, Eighth Ave. and Oak St., will feature the following entertainment: Moonbeam, a singing soloist, at 10 a.m.; Musical Feet, children's dance, at 11 a.m.; Krizzzy Eddy, duet, at noon; Crow's Nest, fiddling, at 1 p.m.; and Lil' Lynne & the Smokin' Souls, blues, at 1:45 p.m. The Market will also feature handmade local crafts and international foods, and takes place rain or shine. Admission is free.

Hunter Davis will perform her solo acoustic music at 8:30 p.m. in the Community Center for the Performing Arts, 291 W. Eighth Ave. Davis uses country, blues, folk and rock to add to her lyrics about the joys and terrors of the world. Tickets can be purchased for \$6 at the EMU Main Desk or for \$7 at the door.

**TUESDAY, NOV. 5**  
Alabama will perform at 7 p.m. in Oregon State University's Gill Coliseum. Opening the show will be Ricky Van Shelton and Mark Chesnut. Tickets, available at G.I. Joe's, are selling for \$19.50. "Sonatas, Etcetera" will take place at 8 p.m. in Beall Concert Hall, 901 E. 18th Ave. The concert will feature student musicians performing a variety of chamber selections. Tickets, available at the door, will sell for \$4 general and \$2 students and seniors.

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 6**  
The Samples will perform at 9:30 p.m. in the Community Center for the Performing Arts, 291 W. Eighth Ave. The group, hailed from Colorado, plays a combination of rock, ska and reggae. They have opened for the likes of Johnny Clegg and Savuka, The Waiters

and Jimmy Gil. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$6.

**THURSDAY, NOV. 7**  
University Collegium Musicum will perform medieval music at 12:15 p.m. in the Hult Center lobby. The concert is free and open to the public.

The Eugene Symphony will perform at 8 p.m. in the Hult Center's Silva Concert Hall. Featured will be Angela Cheng on piano. Tickets, selling for \$8 to \$25, can be purchased at the EMU Main Desk or by calling the box office at 687-5000.

**READINGS, PLAYS AND MOVIES**

**FRIDAY, NOV. 1**  
A Lane Literary Guild Reading, featuring Eugene retired writers George Hitchcock and Marjorie Simon, will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Geringer Lounge. Admission is free.

*The Caretaker*, the latest play produced by Lane Community College's performing arts department, will open at 8 p.m. in the Blue Door Theatre, 4000 E. 30th Ave. The play's plot centers around two brothers in London who offer shelter to a man, not realizing that he would eventually end up alienating them. The play will continue on Nov. 2, 8 and 9. Tickets, selling for \$4, can be purchased by calling the Hult Center box office at 687-5000.

**TUESDAY, NOV. 5**  
*Steven Fletcher: At the Guitar* is the title of a

documentary to be aired on Channel 11 at 9 p.m. The show will focus on Fletcher, a Eugene musician, and his attitudes about his role as a performer and songwriter. The program will be re-run on Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 9 p.m.

### VISUAL ARTS

A Gallery Walk will take place at the Jacobs Gallery, in the Hult Center, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 1. "Masks," an exhibit featuring masks made of various materials, will be on display through today in the LaVerne Krause Gallery, Room 101 of Lawrence Hall. The works, made of clay, fiber and paper, are designed for Halloween.

"Wayang Kulit: The Javanese Shadow Play" is the title of an exhibit to open at the University Natural History Museum, 1680 E. 15th Ave., on Nov. 2. The display, featuring Indonesian shadow puppets, will remain open throughout the year.

PhotoZone Gallery, 411 High St., will present an exhibit of gallery member's works from Nov. 1 to Dec. 1. On display will be mixed media works and photographs.

Computer Landscape Paintings, done by University professor David Foster, will be on display in the LaVerne Krause Gallery, 101 Lawrence Hall. The exhibit will show works that Foster created outdoors, using a fully equipped computer work station and a portable gas-powered generator. A free public reception will take place in the gallery from 7-9 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 4. The exhibit will run from Nov. 4-15.

Exhibition will continue through Nov. 8 in Lane Community College's Art Department Gallery, 4000 E. 30th Ave.

A Group Watercolor Show, also featuring Don Ferrill sculptures, will be on display in the Alder Gallery, 160 E. Broadway, through Nov. 16.

"Historic Woodworking Tools of the Trade," featuring thousands of tools owned by Jack Birky, is on display in the Lane County Historical Museum, 740 W. 13th Ave. Admission is \$2 adults and \$1 seniors. The exhibit will continue through Nov. 17.

A Wood Sculpture Exhibit, featuring the works of Leroy Setzler, is on display in galleries 1A, 1C and 1D of the University's Museum of Art, 1430 Johnson Ln. The exhibit will continue through Nov. 17.

"Dig My Trenches! Roots," an exhibit featuring Kluckitak baskets, is on display in the Museum of Natural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave. The exhibit is on-going, and a \$1 donation is suggested.

"Avian Architect: Birds, Nests and Eggs," an exhibit featuring bird nests collected by Senior Instructor of Biology Herb Wisner, will be on display in the Museum of Natural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave. The exhibit is on-going, and a \$1 donation is suggested.

"Ethiopia's Braided Traditions," an exhibit that examines the influence of Islamic, Christian and Jewish religious traditions on Ethiopia, will be on display in the Museum of Natural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave. The exhibit is on-going, and a \$1 donation is suggested.

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