

Help

**PORTRAIT
OF
AN
ARTIST**

NICHOLAS VOLPE

Son of an Italian immigrant family, Nicholas Volpe was born in the New England community of New Haven, Connecticut. Because he showed an exceptional talent with the violin, his parents sent him to study in Italy. Homesick for America, he soon returned to continue his formal education.

Like husky Mr. Volpe entered New York's *Syracuse University* on a football scholarship. There his talent as an artist began to blossom. Rather than accept a *Syracuse* professorship upon graduation, he considered he had much more to learn. He entered and won the coveted *Tiffany Foundation Art Scholarship Award* for which thousands compete and only six are victorious. As part of the award, Mr. Volpe moved to the famed silversmith's baronial estate on Long Island to pursue his art work in seclusion among the varied resplendent land and seascapes.

Flourishing in all media of his work, Mr. Volpe eventually became an instructor of fine arts at New York City's *Leonardo da Vinci Art School* where he transported his ideas and conceptions of depth and creative interpretation to enthusiastic students there.

Two years later Mr. Volpe accepted the post of *Dean of Arts at Jacksonville College* in Florida. This lasted three years until he migrated to Hollywood where he had been commissioned to design sets, create makeup and fashion costumes for many motion pictures. But it was Nicholas Volpe's powerful portraits of that industry's leading personalities which formed an unassailable reputation for this dedicated artist. He painted Clark Gable, Tyrone Power, Bette Davis, Spencer Tracy, Katharine Hepburn, Frederic March, Bing Crosby, Jennifer Jones. You hadn't arrived until Nicholas Volpe had painted your portrait.

When Mr. Volpe received a lifetime contract by the *Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences* to execute portraits each year of the actor and actress awarded that institution's Academy Award ("*Oscar*"), he made Southern California his home. Here he raised his three children.

Mr. Volpe was awarded the record industry's *Golden Grammy Award* for the cover he designed for the Frank Sinatra album, *Only the Lonely*. This led to a commission from the *Hollywood Brown Derby* to paint nearly 200 of the nation's top recording artists for its *Hall of Fame Record Room*.

A former athlete himself, Mr. Volpe possesses the gift to capture, on canvas, the physical drive frozen in action of a myriad of the world's leading sports figures.

Considered one of today's leading masters of the pastel portrait, Mr. Volpe has rendered the likenesses of members of the *Los Angeles Dodgers National League* baseball team for several years. He has also painted the stars of many other major league baseball, football, basketball and hockey teams.

In conjunction with his Sports Figures Portraits, Mr. Volpe has conducted numerous major cross-country tours of television, radio and live personal appearances.

A poet and author of note, Mr. Volpe is popularly known for his *Byways*, a *Hearst Syndicate* newspaper feature series for many years. Here he sketches and writes about places of interest in the State of California. Below these renderings, he writes descriptive verse what an artist might be thinking as he draws the countryside.

During his distinguished career, Mr. Volpe has completed portrait commissions of the late President John F. Kennedy, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, California Governor Ronald Reagan, and traveled to Israel to create a heroic oil portrait of that country's then Premier David Ben Gurion.

In 1973, Mr. Volpe became associated with Southern California's Pepperdine University Malibu Campus where he taught art in all forms. His first one man show at this institution of learning was a series of twenty-four *Frank Sinatra Sits* studies, a superior collection depicting different characters the actor has portrayed during his screen career.

In 1974, Mr. and Mrs. Volpe made their first trip through Mexico. Volpe fell in love with Mexico and for the past three years they have traveled over ten thousand miles, via motorhome gathering material and learning about Mexico, the Yucatan, Baja California and the people. The artist's love and deep feelings for the beauty of Mexico and character of its people are expressed in hundreds of oil paintings, pastel and charcoal drawings and sketches which are to be published with bi-lingual prose-poetry; sensitive musings and observations of selected works of the artist. The book is tentatively entitled "FACES AND PLACES de MEXICO".

Now in the planning stage is a series of one-man shows to tour throughout Mexico, United States, Canada, "perhaps the world", says Volpe adding, "communicating a dream, bringing a glorious feast to other eyes - an Italo-American's point of view of a country so rich in color, tradition, customs.



Life-size oil portrait of James R. Hoffa.



Palette-knife oil of Mission Santa Barbara. The first of a series of California missions by Volpe.



NORMAN K. ZEFF was born in the New England city of New Haven, Connecticut. His desire was to become a artist and internationally celebrated artist. Now Mr. Zeff's paintings are enhancing the walls of many public institutions, distinguished and well known restaurants and the homes of Hollywood stars, major political and business figures and heads of state.

Zeff graduated from Syracuse University with highest honors and upon graduation obtained a professorship at Syracuse to

accept the Tiffany Foundation Scholarship at Oyster Bay, Long Island. It was during this time that Zeff's creative and philosophical mind kept directing him towards the goal—a depiction in his paintings and a real contribution to the arts in America. For two years Mr. Zeff was an instructor of Fine Arts at the Leonardo da Vinci Art School in New York City.

Jacksonville College had the honor of hiring Mr. Zeff to teach and then to Arts for three years. Upon leaving Florida he made his way to Hollywood, California, where he was to add his name to a Production Designer for some of Hollywood's biggest films and with his life portraits of the motion picture industry leading personalities.

Zeff has shown and painted some Hollywood stars than any other artist. He has a lifetime contract to do portraits of the annual Academy Award winners, for the best performance of an actor and actress. These portraits began with the 1928 winners through to the current winners are on display at the Beverly Hills, Brown Derby.

Zeff was and was presented with the annual industry's Golden Grammy Award for the cover design of the Frank Sinatra Capitol album "Moby The Lonely."

Mr. Robert Cobb of the famed Hollywood Brown Derby selected Zeff to paint 127 top recording artists for his "Hall of Fame" Record Book, for his willing willing recording artists.

Zeff's portfolio includes portraits of the World Champion Los Angeles Dodgers Baseball Team; The Detroit Tigers, Atlanta Braves, New York Mets, Cleveland Indians, Cincinnati Reds and The St. Louis Cardinals. He has also completed commissions for portraits of John F. Kennedy, Winston Churchill, David Ben-Gurion, Ronald Reagan and other famous personalities.

Zeff now residing in Burbank, California, recently returned from his most successful year country tour of radio and television appearances in conjunction with his Sports Figures Portfolio. He continues to contribute to the profession of the arts with his many masterpieces of life drawings and paintings and his lectures on art.

Perhaps his most well known work is his "Always," a syndicated feature appearing in the Los Angeles Examiner, each Sunday. "Always" is a life drawing accompanied by vibrant, warm, reasonable words of power which are "experiences" of the life around us portrayed and remounted with utmost sensitivity and exactness.

**ACADEMY
STARS INC.**

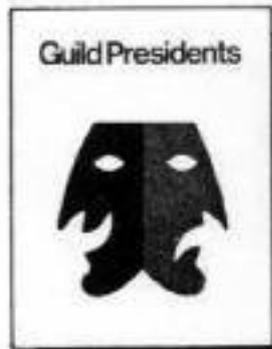
Last painting of great star ever made from life - Tyrone Powers a "Captain from Castile" by Volpe. Powers made his final sitting for it just prior to leaving for Spain and his untimely death.



Broderick Crawford thanking Volpe for his portrait. Mr. Crawford won the coveted "Oscar" for best portrayal by an actor, 1949 "All the Kings Men". His complete collection hangs in the famous Brown Derby in Beverly Hills. The Academy Room was created by Volpe.

Volpe has painted more portraits of the famous star, Sinatra than of any other celebrity including a full length oil which hangs in the Friars Club, Beverly Hills –Twenty four portraits depicting Sinatra in his memorable cinema roles– album cover designs, etc.





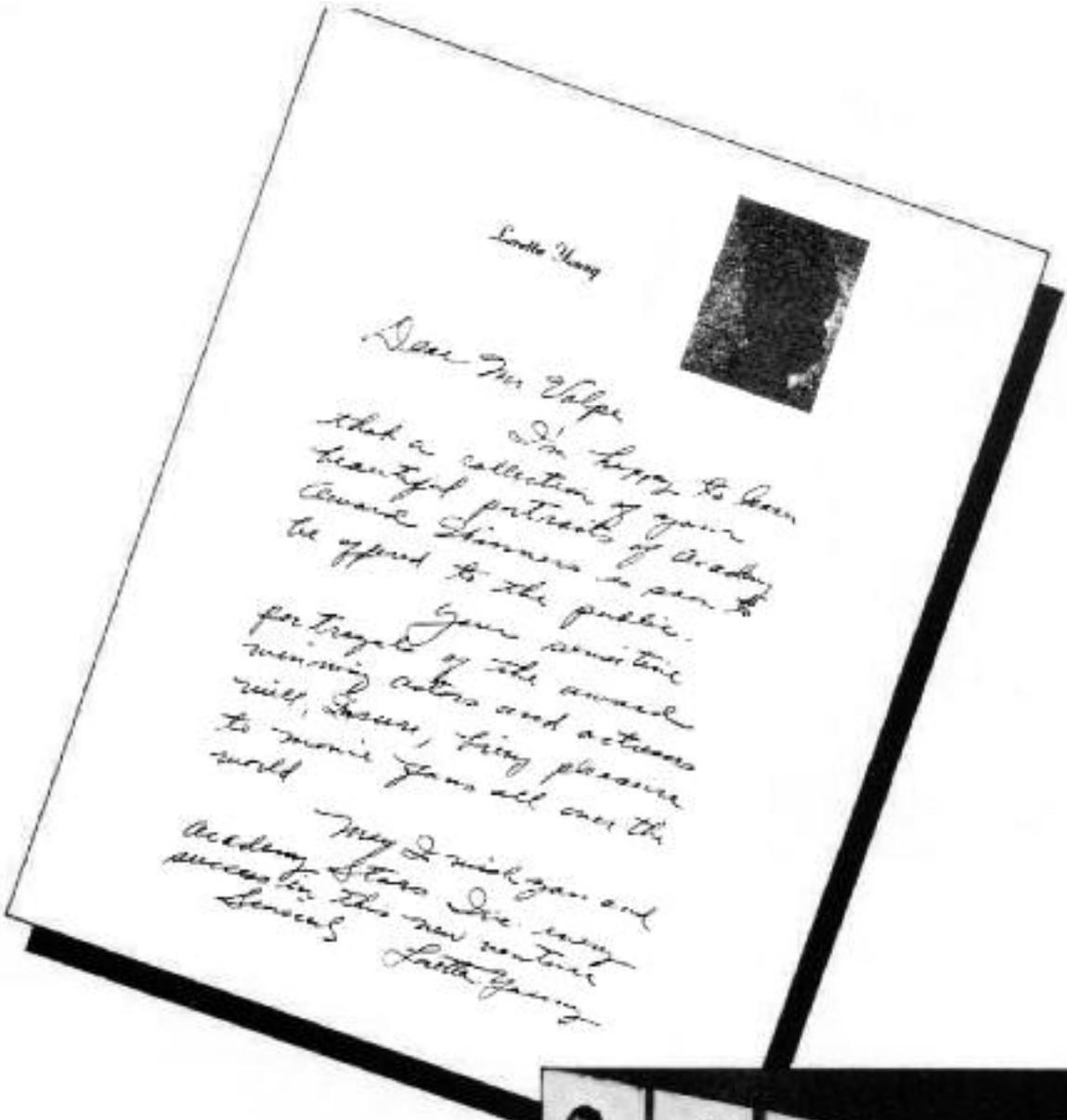
Volpe has painted all the presidents of the Screen Actors Guild. The latest, not shown, is the first woman ever to preside, now in her second term - the great actress, Kathleen Nolan.



Will Roger's son, shown holding the portrait of his famous father. One of a series of famous western stars portrayed by Volpe.



The renowned producer-director Mervin Le Roy, admiring his portrait by Volpe. Inscribed on the photograph. "For Nick, you're the best" signed Mervin Le Roy.



Latta Young



Dear Mr Volpe

I'm happy to learn that a collection of your beautiful portraits of Academy Award winners is soon to be offered to the public. Your sensitive portrayal of the award winning actors and actresses will, I assure, bring pleasure to movie fans all over the world.

May I wish you and Academy Stars the warm success in the new venture.
Sincerely Latta Young

Volpe showing Peter Lorre and Jeanne Crain his portrait of Marlon Brando. The artist has a lifetime contract to draw the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences "Oscar" winners for the famous Brown Derby in Beverly Hills.





Volpe presenting Bob Hope
his portrait, honoring the
great star for being selected
"Man of the Year"
by WAIF.

BOB HOPE
June 24, 1978

I became acquainted with actor Richard Volpe
long before he painted my portrait. My name
who has lived at the Berkeley Hills Brown Derby
has in have been awarded by Volpe's overpainting
portraits of the Academy Award "Oscar" winners
throughout the years. As for me, I felt the
entire glamorous history of motion pictures
glazed down on me through the eyes of one of
America's most gifted artists.

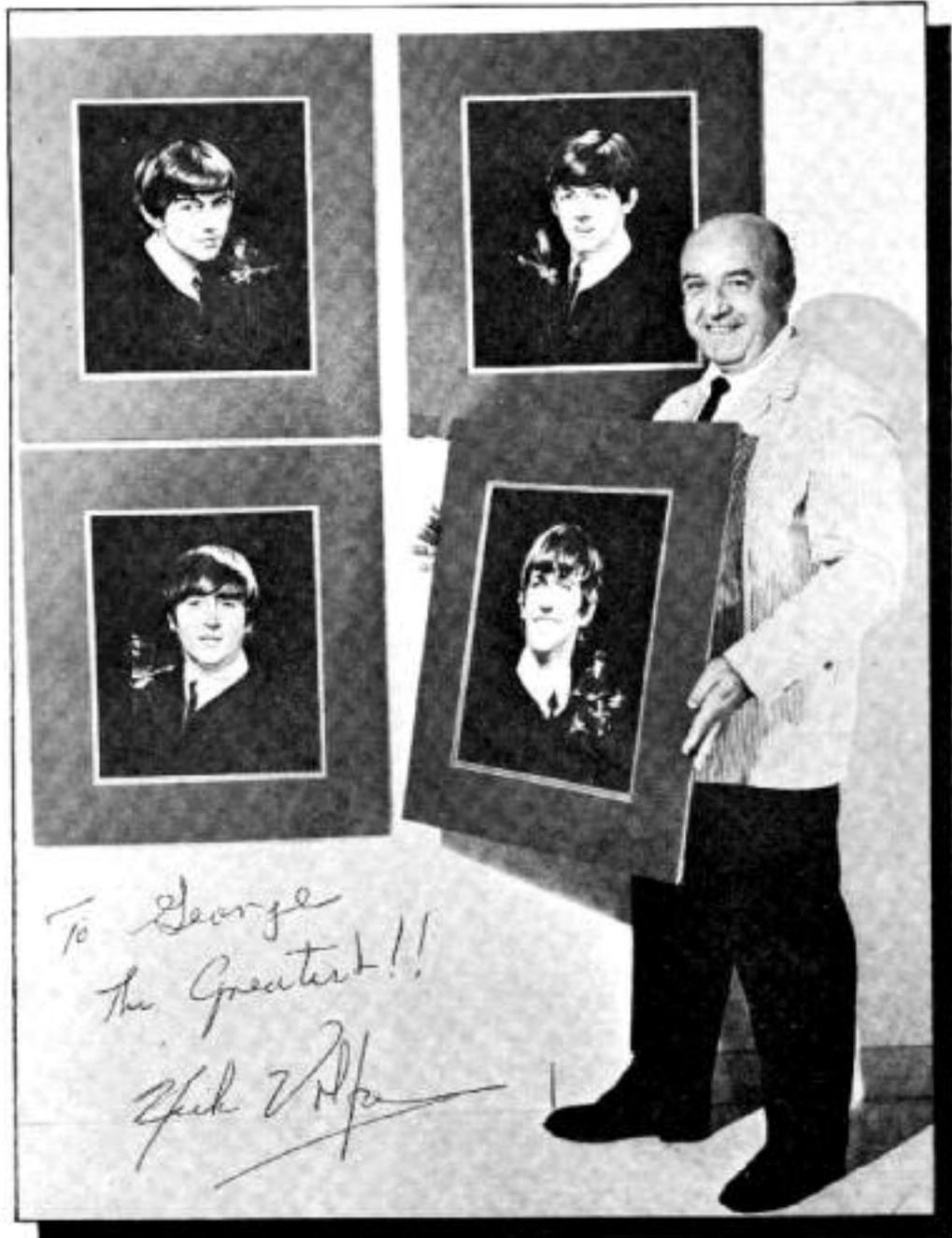


Executive producers Heatter and Quigly, along with Peter Marshall, host of the successful TV show "Hollywood Squares" admire artist Nicholas Volpe's portrait of Peter Marshall.

THREE MILLION TIMES 16 TONS: Tennessee Ernie Ford (center) hangs his own portrait on the wall of the Golden Record Room at the Hollywood Brown Derby as Derby president Robert H. Cobb (left) and artist Nick Volpe look on. Ernie became "eligible" to have his portrait hang in the Record Room when his record on "Sixteen Tons" passed the million mark in sales. While artist Volpe was preparing the portrait to add to the million-record gallery, "Sixteen Tons" zoomed to nearly three million sold. The Golden Record Room was also created by Volpe.



Volpe and his four pastel portraits of the Beatles. The artist was commissioned to paint the famous foursome. Reproductions sold in the millions.



Los Angeles Dodger manager, Walt Alston, being presented his portrait by Volpe upon Alston's retirement from baseball,



Portraits presented by Volpe to Roman Gabriel and Merlin Olsen – famous stars of the Los Angeles Rams.



Volpe, along with Jack Benny, Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, Mayor Bradley and other well known figures presenting Hank Aaron with his portrait, both at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles and at the Astrodome in Houston Texas.



Another last painting from life, of John F. Kennedy by Volpe. Soon after the beloved President of the United States met his untimely death.





VOLPE spent the summer of '57 in Isarael because he was commissioned to paint the portrait of the Premier of Isarael, David Ben Gurion. Here it is being accepted by one of the dignitaries of Isarael. Mayor of Te Aviv.



Renown poet-artist, Nicholas Volpe, presents his pastel "Presidential Portrait Sketches" to Jose Lopez Portillo the President of the Republic of Mexico.



Volpe as a sculptor. A heroic bust of Houdini with the symbolic chain and lock that the escape artist was so famous for,