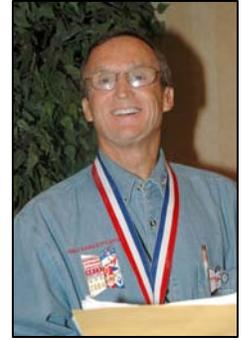




art • music • drama • dance • creative



PERFORMER PROFILE

Mike McCann – The Work Keeps Rollin’ In

If you’re an avid sports fan, chances are you saw a lot of Mike McCann last fall in an ESPN Game Plan commercial for DirecTV and ESPN, where McCann played the principal role of a coach promoting the football season. More recently, you may have seen McCann in the newest Matchbox 20 and Rob Thomas (Rock Artists) music video on MTV or VH1. A 62-year-old Army veteran from Redondo Beach, Calif., McCann has a way of making opportunities appear. With an acting career in full swing, McCann is an example of the professional and diverse talent seen at the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. This year’s Festival marks the fourth time McCann has been invited to perform at the exciting stage show finale. This year, he will perform as part of the Festival’s chorus, while also auditioning for both speaking and acting assignments.

This year, McCann, who is known for his friendly and cheerful demeanor, won first place in two categories of the national drama competition: the solo comedy and group dramatic prose categories. In his group win, McCann delivers a sensitive performance with a young Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran. The duel drama entry is called “The Haircut,” based on a true life incident about a young Marine home on leave who has his hair cut by his father (McCann). The scene builds from a jovial time between father and son, to the details about the horrors of war his son experienced. The duo plans to re-shoot the piece with better video and audio for placement on YouTube.

McCann is a true talent and a lifetime student in theater arts. A graduate of California State University at Long Beach with Bachelor’s degree in Theater Studies, McCann received his draft notice shortly after graduation in 1968. With a family history of military service, he felt it was his turn to serve, like the men in his family’s past. In the Army, McCann became a chaplain’s assistant and worked for the Command Information Office for the Army, where he produced videos, wrote acting roles, and hosted a community radio news spot – a perfect assignment for his talents. McCann was honorably discharged from the Army in 1970.

Mike McCann is quite the entrepreneur when it comes to promoting his talent. With his hard work and persistence, he has appeared in movies, feature length documentaries, a TV spot on Court TV, film festival entries, and various commercials. “The Creative Arts Festival is a reunion for me after



NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE **ARTS** FESTIVAL

art • music • drama • dance • creative writing

all these years of fun,” said McCann. “Staff and fellow cast mates are like my family. The ensemble performance and talent at this event year after year is astonishing, and always a treasured experience.”