

Phillip S. Wilson

Phill was born in 1940 and graduated from NHS in 1958. After leaving Northridge, Phill earned a Bachelor of Science in Education, a Master of Arts, and a Ph.D. in theatre, film, and curriculum development from Ohio State University. He began his teaching career at NHS and ended it at Fort Hayes School for Performing Arts in Columbus where he served for 25 years as head of the department of theatre. In between he was head of the drama department at Eastmoor High School in Columbus and taught at Ohio State University. He was chosen as Teacher of the Year both at Eastmoor and Fort Hayes. One of his students has won an Emmy.

Phill has worked in many areas of theater. He began his career in entertainment at the age of six when he started singing for his first grade class. But it would be 12 years before he was paid for his efforts. At 18 he began singing in night clubs. By the time he was 19, he had been signed to cut his first record. The deal was even sweeter because Phill had written the tune he was about to record. Three of his records made Billboard charts in the United States, Canada, and England. He has worked with such artists as Neil Sadaka, Pat Boone, Rick Nelson, Ann-Margret, Floyd Kramer, and Peter, Paul, and Mary. As a legitimate stage actor, he has played such roles as Cervantes in *Man of La Mancha*, the king in *The King and I*, Harold Hill in *The Music Man*, Ravenal in *Showboat*, and El Gallo in *The Fantastiks*. He has appeared in over 40 plays and musicals. Additionally, he has appeared in over 35 television commercials. A member of the Screen Actors Guild, Phill has appeared in several films, including MGM-United Artists' *Teachers* with Nick Nolte, and he played Kelly Preston's father in Twentieth Century Fox's *Mischief*. As a director, he has directed over 110 stage plays and served for seven years as the associate director for WBNS-TV's *The Judge*, winning three local Emmy's. For 12 years, he has been the Master of Ceremonies for the Miss Ohio State Fair Pageant. He is the composer of *The New Albany Suite*, a commissioned choral piece in four movements.

A newspaper drama critic wrote of his performance in a production of *Music Man*, ". . . Leading this delightful production was Phillip S. Wilson as the irresistible con man, Harold Hill. Wilson sings, dances, and acts his way right into your heart. His powerful baritone voice vibrates into your soul. His energy on stage is boundless. There are times that you're

convinced that his feet never touch the ground. It is easy to see why Marian the librarian falls in love with him. By the evening's end, the entire audience is willing to follow him anywhere he would want to go. His charismatic interpretation of the role is reminiscent of Robert Preston, but there is enough Wilson to make it original and magnetic Mr. Wilson, we don't know where you have been, but Columbus audiences deserve more of you."

In his spare time, Phill is a reserve Franklin County Sheriff's Deputy and has served as president of the Fraternal Order of Deputies twice, has twice received the Medert Award as Reserve Deputy of the Year, and earned the Herdman Award for Firearms Excellence.

Being part Etowa Cherokee, Phill is very active in Native American affairs. He recently received an eagle feather, the highest honor given by the Indian community.

Phill and his wife, Debbie, live in New Albany, Ohio.

Dr. Wilson wrote the Hall of Fame Committee: "There is a place in my heart for Northridge. Whatever I have been able to accomplish – the foundation, the inspiration, the motivation –came from NHS. I will always love this school and the teachers and people I have come to associate with it."