

Backstage Pass

INSIGHTS ON STAGE, SCREEN AND BEYOND

Danny Kaye Tribute Next Up In Lobby Lounge Cabaret Series

By KRISTEN FIORE | Daily Sun Senior Writer

Wesley Slade's late father raised him on the oldies. "Red Skelton, Abbott & Costello, Marx Brothers, the Three Stooges, the list goes on and on," Slade said. "I've always had an affinity for all things comedy and vaudeville." But singer, comedian and actor Danny Kaye holds a special place in Slade's heart.

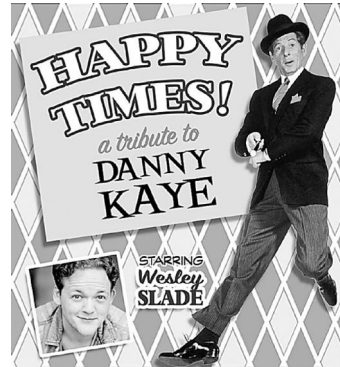
That's why Slade, who was last seen performing in The Villages in Victory Productions' "Life Could Be a Dream" at The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol last summer, wrote "Happy Times!" a tribute to Kaye.

Slade will perform "Happy Times!" at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the lobby of The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center as part of the venue's lobby lounge

cabaret series.

"Danny Kaye, to put it bluntly, is sadly a forgotten name for my generation," said Slade. "People often forget that he was one of the biggest stars of his time. He was a one-of-a-kind performer with incredible skill and tailored material that made him incomparable."

During his show, Slade will tackle some of Kaye's famous



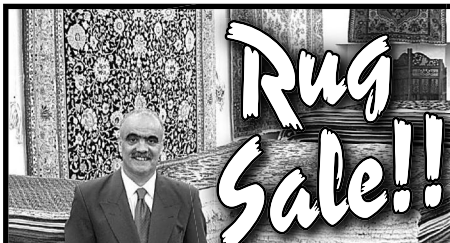
Submitted photo

Wesley Slade will perform "Happy Times," a tribute to Danny Kaye, on Tuesday.

songs like "Minnie the Moocher," "Anatole of Paris" and more, but he also hopes to educate the audience about Kaye.

"I run down the highlights of his life and career, and believe it or not, hit about 20 songs within the hour," Slade said. "I'm not here to necessarily be Danny Kaye. I'm here to tell his story, bring his essence to the material and channel him with my own comedic sensibilities."

And Slade thoroughly enjoys performing Kaye's music.



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The Villages Entertainment sells tickets in person at their four box office locations or online at thevillagesentertainment.com

All box office locations are open from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Lake Sumter Landing: 1070 Canal St.

Brownwood: 2726 Brownwood Blvd.

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