

LIFE & ARTS

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"I enjoy theater in general and especially movies."

DON McDOWELL | longtime volunteer



Don McDowell, who helped launch the Summer Movie Series in 1970 and has spent the past four decades volunteering at the event

WILL FIGG | DISPATCH PHOTOS

A TRUE CLASSIC

Ohio Theatre usher a familiar face at Summer Movies Series

By Nick Chordas

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

During its 40-year history, the Summer Movie Series at the Ohio Theatre has boasted two constants: Hollywood's best and brightest, and Hilltop resident Don McDowell.

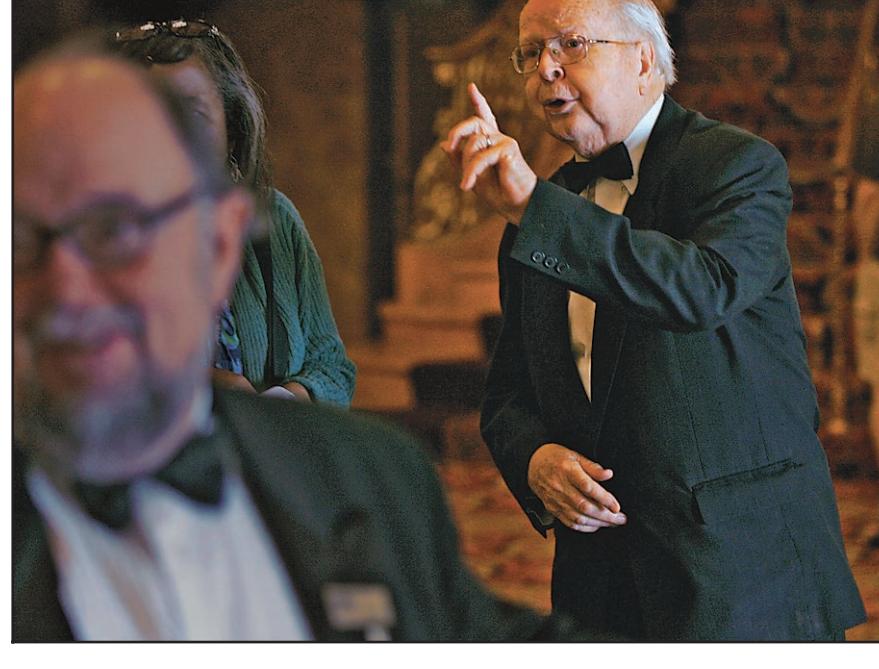
McDowell, 80, has torn tickets, handed out programs, directed moviegoers to seats and answered countless questions (including "When did the theater open?" and "Where are the concessions?") for four decades — always with a smile.

"I enjoy theater in general and especially movies," he said, adding with a laugh: "I also love the people — most of them."

McDowell is among the most tenured of the 960 volunteers for the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts, which owns and operates the Ohio Theatre and other area venues.

He is an authority not only on the theater (answers to previous questions: "1928" and "through the arches, to the left") but also movies.

See **USHER** Page D2



McDowell directing a moviegoer toward the concessions

SHOW & TELL

'Love Me Tender' Mr. Potato Head

The Elvis Presley estate has signed a deal with Hasbro and PPW Toys to release an Elvis version of Mr. Potato Head.

Kevin Kern, a spokesman for Presley's Graceland estate, told *The Commercial Appeal* of Memphis, Tenn., that the new toy is one of 15,000 Elvis-licensed products.

The first of the Elvis potato heads — dressed in a jumpsuit — will be released for Elvis Tribute Week in August. A second version — with the likeness dressed in black leather — will be available at Christmas.

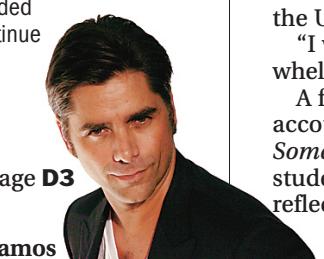
Stamos on tap for 'Glee' role

John Stamos might join the cast of Fox's popular high-school musical drama *Glee*. According to *Entertainment Weekly* and a Fox representative, Stamos is in talks to play the recurring love interest for guidance counselor Emma (Jayma Mays) in the show's second season.

Stamos, perhaps best-known for his role as Uncle Jesse on *Full House*, recently starred on Broadway in *Bye Bye Birdie*. He also spent years playing drums with the Beach Boys.

Glee's first season ended Tuesday; reruns will continue through the summer on Fox, including WITE-TV (Channel 28).

See **SHOW & TELL** Page D3



Q&A

Youth work provided insight for author's inaugural book

By Kristine Gill

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

She hates having her picture taken.

In other ways, too, Erin Richards resembles the heroine of her first novel, blushing when attention turns her way.

"In high school, I was extremely shy," said the 42-year-old alumna of Bexley High School. "I rarely spoke."

But Richards, who uses the pen name Erin McCahan, isn't shy about her newly released book for teens: *I Now Pronounce You Someone Else*.

The young-adult novel drew the interest of Scholastic's Arthur A. Levine Books, which also published the *Harry Potter* series in the United States.

"I was completely overwhelmed," Richards said.

A fictional, first-person account, *I Now Pronounce You Someone Else* centers on college student Bronwen Oliver, who reflects on her journey through



Author Erin McCahan near a display of her books at Barnes & Noble in Upper Arlington

► **I Now Pronounce You Someone Else** (Arthur A. Levine, 272 pages, \$16.99, for age 12 and older) by Erin McCahan

high school — and finds a true fit with her boyfriend's family.

The book is set in Grand Rapids, Mich. (where Richards was born) and refers frequently to

See **McCahan** Page D2

SO TO SPEAK

His vote for statue goes to Grant

I'm thinking that Gov. William Allen deserves a statue for distinguished history teaching.

The long, long process of kicking the politically incorrect

Allen (he opposed Abraham Lincoln's anti-slavery positions) out of Statuary Hall in Washington has resulted in a long, long debate about who should

replace him.

Suddenly, Harriet Taylor Upton and James Ashley have been rescued from obscurity.

Upton, who fought for women's rights, and Ashley, an abolitionist congressman, are two of the 10 Ohioans (counting the Wright brothers as a unit) nominated to have their likenesses replace Allen's in the hall at the U.S. Capitol.

The rest of the field: President Ulysses S. Grant, athlete Jesse Owens, Dr. Albert Sabin, astronaut Judith Resnik, inventor Thomas Edison, U.S. Rep. William McCulloch and author Harriet Beecher Stowe. Read all about them at www.ohiohistorycentral.org.

Until the process of replacing Allen's statue really got rolling, I would have called the whole thing a waste. You know the thinking: Why spend time debating statues when Ohioans are out of work, blah, blah, blah?

Here's why: It's harder for politicians to lie when people know history. When the governor of Virginia tried to pretend a while back that slavery had little to do with the Civil War, he was widely ridiculed because some of his constituents knew history. I hope they punish him at the polls someday.

So I'm giving Gov. Allen a commendation for unintentionally inspiring an impromptu course in Ohio history. I will admit to knowing nothing of McCulloch, a civil-rights advocate while serving in Congress, until he was nominated as a possible Allen replacement.

Nor was I well-versed on Ashley, a Civil War-era congressman who fought hard to get the 13th Amendment, outlawing slavery, added to the Constitution.

Of course, this makes it more difficult to settle on a favorite. Not that difficult, though: I'm going with Ulysses S. Grant.

A general who wins the war that could have split the United States in two is pretty difficult to beat. True, he had some failures as president, but, then again, most presidents do.

I also admire him for slogging away at his memoirs while dying of cancer. It was a valiant and successful effort to make some money to leave to his family.

This is not to diminish the efforts of the other nominees for the hall. They all deserve to be in the history books. But some seem more likely to live long in memory than others. (One of Allen's problems is that people ask "who?" when his name is mentioned.)

Edison, inventor of the light bulb and many other things? The name seems likely to endure.

Resnik, who died on the *Challenger*? I'm less certain.

You can vote for your favorite, by the way. Visit [www.legacyforohio.org](http://legacyforohio.org) for how to do it. The deadline is Saturday.

If nothing else, read the stories of these 10 people. They deserve at least that much.

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