

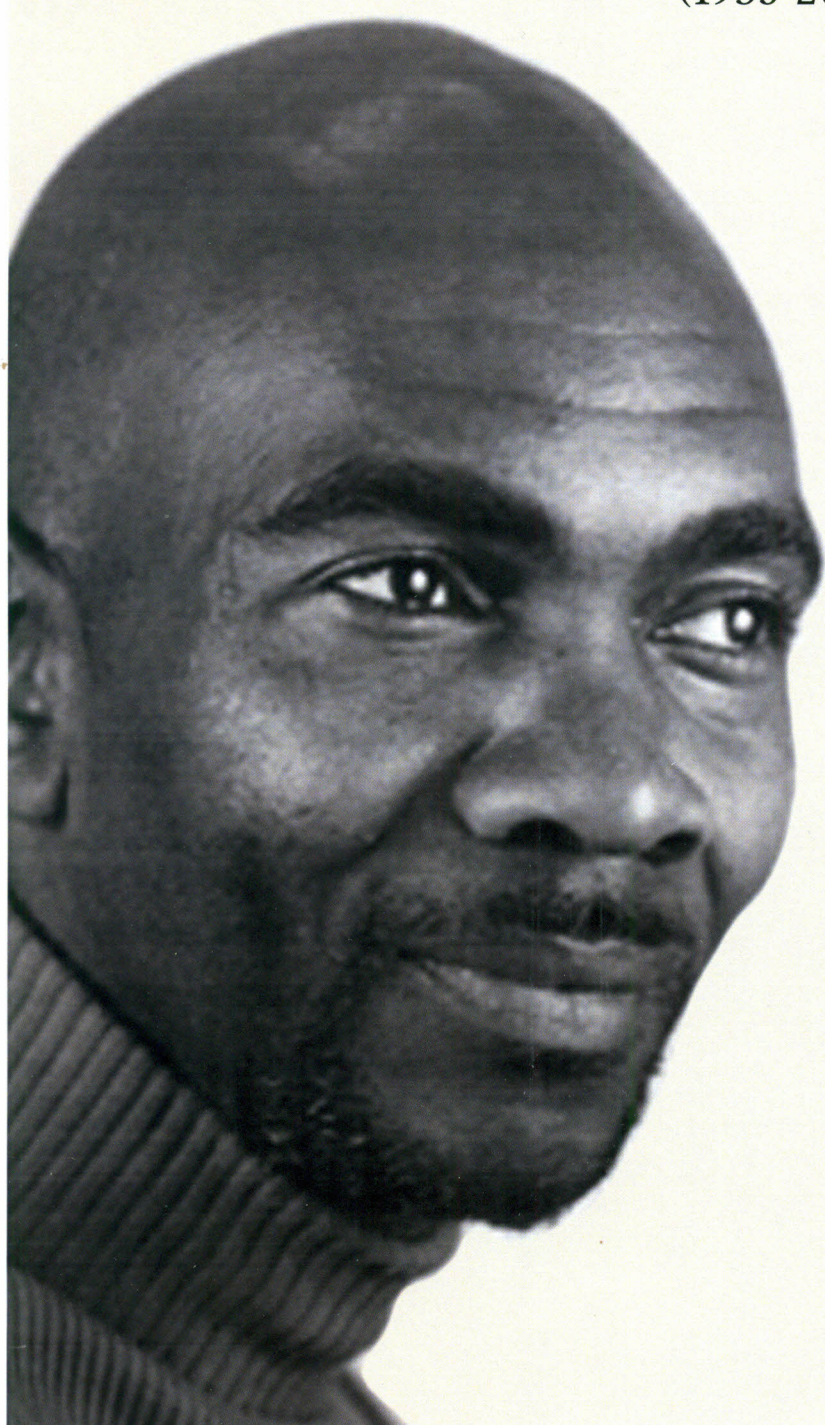


WEST VIRGINIA STATE
UNIVERSITY

MEMORIAL SERVICE AND
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT CEREMONY

LEWIS EDDY “LOU” MYERS

(1935-2013)



LEWIS EDDY “LOU” MYERS

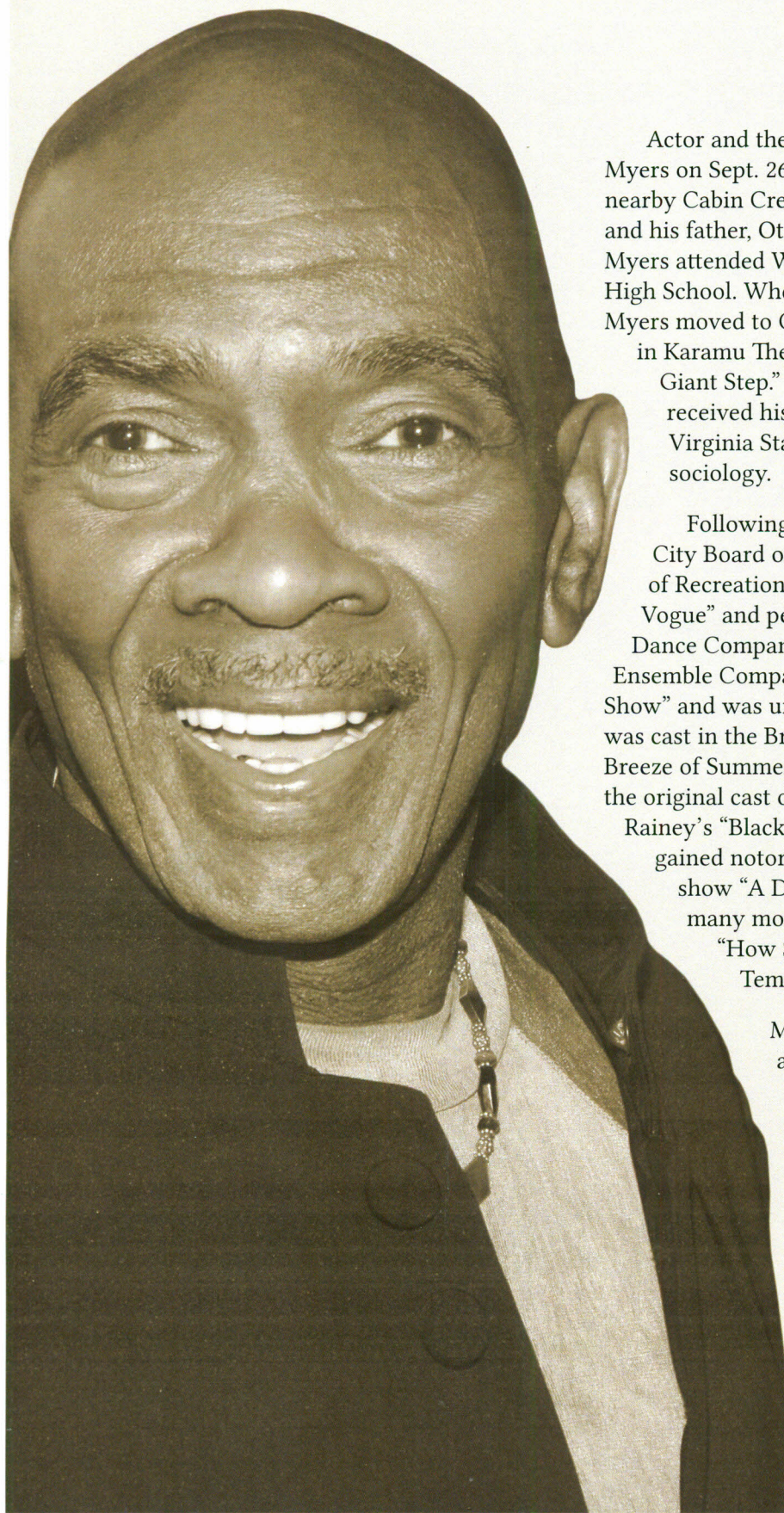
Over 50 Years in Television, Movies
and Broadway Memorial Ceremony,
Presentation of Portrait Painting and
Award of Annual Scholarship Fund

September 29, 2017 • 10 a.m.

West Virginia State University
Davis Fine Arts Building

LEWIS EDDY “LOU” MYERS

(1935-2013)



Actor and theatrical director Lou Myers was born Lewis Eddy Myers on Sept. 26, 1935, in Chesapeake, W.Va. Myers was raised in nearby Cabin Creek by his mother, Dorothy Louise Brown Myers and his father, Otis Louis Myers, a mine worker fluent in German. Myers attended Wake Forrest Junior High School and Washington High School. When his father died and his mother became ill, Myers moved to Cleveland, Ohio, for work. There, he performed in Karamu Theatre’s junior department production of “Take a Giant Step.” Myers joined the U.S. Air Force in 1951 where he received his GED. Discharged in 1953, Myers entered West Virginia State University, earning his bachelor’s degree in sociology.

Following graduation, Myers worked for the New York City Board of Education and the New York City Department of Recreation. He narrated the production “Negro Music in Vogue” and performed as the griot with Dinizulu’s African Dance Company. In 1968, Myers auditioned for the Negro Ensemble Company’s production of Genet’s “The Blacks: A Clown Show” and was understudy to Louis Gossett, Jr. In 1976, Myers was cast in the Broadway production of Leslie Lee’s “The First Breeze of Summer,” which was later televised. He was featured in the original cast of most of August Wilson’s plays, including Ma Rainey’s “Black Bottom,” “Fences” and “The Piano Lesson.” Myers gained notoriety for his role as Mr. Gaines in the television show “A Different World” from 1988 to 1993. Among his many movie credits are: “Cobb,” “Volcano,” “Bulworth,” “How Stella Got Her Groove Back,” “The Fighting Temptations” and “Lackawanna Blues.”

Myers won an NAACP Image Award for his role as “Stool Pigeon” in the August Wilson play, “King Hedley II.” He has also won the off-Broadway Audelco Award for his role in the play “Fat Tuesday.” In 2005, the Appalachian Education Initiative listed Myers as one of 50 “Outstanding Creative Artists” from the State of West Virginia and featured him in their coffee table book Art & Soul. Myers is the founder of the Tshaka Ensemble. Myers’ son, Melvin Myers, and grandson live in Harlem where the neighborhood youth call him “Mr. Gaines.” Lou Myers passed away on Feb. 20, 2013.

LITANY OF MEMORIAL DEDICATION LEWIS EDDY MYERS

The Rev. Dr. Paul H. Easley, Sr., Class of 1956
Col. (Ret.) Paul Easley, U.S. Army Chaplain

LEADER: In the rising of the sun and in its going down,

CONGREGATION: We remember Lewis Eddy Myers an honored graduate of West Virginia State University.

LEADER: In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

CONGREGATION: We remember him.

LEADER: In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,

CONGREGATION: We remember him.

LEADER: In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of the summer,

CONGREGATION: We remember him.

LEADER: In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,

CONGREGATION: We remember him.

LEADER: In the beginning of the year and when it ends,

CONGREGATION: We remember him.

LEADER: When we are weary and in need of strength,

CONGREGATION: We remember him.

LEADER: When we are lost and sick at heart,

CONGREGATION: We remember him.

LEADER: When we have joys we yearn to share,

CONGREGATION: We remember him.

LEADER: So long as we live, they too shall live, for he is now a part of us,

CONGREGATION: As we remember Lou Myers and our alma mater.

LEADER: Though the seasons change and the years go by, the memories of Lou Myers who once lived among us remain intact! May the mercies of a loving God sustain our strength and resolve to support his institution, West Virginia State University, through dedicated service, scholarship contributions, and spiritual remembrance through the coming season and beyond.

CONGREGATION: Amen.

EVOCATION AND SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 23 (The Message)

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LEWIS EDDY “LOU” MYERS

WELCOME

Dr. Robert Wallace
Interim Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LOU MYERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mrs. Lydia McLeod

PORTRAIT UNVEILING

Ms. Tasha Baldwin
Rev. Frederick Hightower

RESPONSE

Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins
President, West Virginia State University

PRESENTATION

Ms. Janet Armentrout
Mayor, City of Chesapeake

REFLECTIONS

Ms. Barbara Tanner Wilson
Ms. Crystal Good
Ms. Doris A. Fields

BENEDICTION

Rev. Paul Easley

A reception with light refreshments will follow the ceremony.



LOU MYERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Lou Myers Scholarship Fund will benefit students in the
Fine and Performing Arts at West Virginia State University.

To contribute to this fund, go to <https://connect.wvstateu.edu/donate>.

The generous support from alumni and friends helps WVSU provide quality academic programs and access to education for hundreds of students each year who may otherwise be unable to afford it.