

For immediate release
Tuesday, Dec. 3, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford have invited Academy Award winning performer Joel Grey to entertain at the State Dinner honoring Helmut Schmidt, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

This is the first time Grey has performed at the White House.

Singer-dancer-actor Grey won the Academy Award as Best Supporting Actor in 1972 for his performance in "Cabaret." Other honors stemming from that performance came from the National Association of Theatre Owners, which named him "Musical Star of the Year;" the National Society of Film Critics and the National Board of Review, which named him "Best Supporting Actor;" and the Foreign Press Corps' Golden Globe Award.

He has also been cited for his performances in the New York musical "George M!" and his dramatic portrayal of a clairvoyant in the movie "Man on a Swing." He also appears regularly on various television shows.

Grey was born in 1932 in Cleveland, Ohio. He started performing at age 10, debuting as "Pud" in "On Borrowed Time" at The Cleveland Playhouse. His family moved to Los Angeles, and he continued to perform on weekends during his high school years with his father, Comedian Mickey Katz. He was also featured by the late Eddie Cantor in the television series, the Colgate Comedy Hour.

He began a series of nightclub performances across the country at age 19, including a headline engagement at the Copacabana in New York. He joined the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York to study with Sanford Meisner and Wynn Handman and began television performances, winning national attention for his title role in the NBC Special "Jack and the Beanstalk." He also appeared in three films.

He appeared in numerous stage plays and musicals, and in 1967 was signed for the role of the master of ceremonies in "Cabaret." He won the Tony Award that year as Best Supporting Actor in a Broadway Musical. He starred in "George M!" in 1969, winning the Variety Critics Award as Best Actor and a second Tony nomination.

He has made guest star appearances on most major television shows, including "Ironside," "Night Gallery," "The Burt Bacharach Show," "The Carol Burnett Show," and others.

Grey and his wife reside in New York City and are the parents of two children. He is an art collector, interested primarily in contemporary American and African art.

Note: Grey has received a number of awards this year, including the Israel Cultural Award from the Israel Bonds Association and the "Entertainment Father of the Year" award from the National Fathers Day Committee. President Ford, then Vice President, received the "National Father of the Year" Award during the same ceremonies in New York in May of this year, and the two met at that time.

#

