

Downtowner

DOWNTOWN DAYTON'S PAPER

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Downtown in springtime



Marilyn Monroe exhibit at DAI/page 13



◀ **Volunteers needed downtown/page 8**

◀ **Many ways to help for civic-minded/page 9**

Restaurant donates space for local artists/see page 6

C-J coordinator leads students to service/see page 4

▶ **Fifth-Third Field ready for Dragons fans/see page 15**

◀ **Flying Pizza to relocate/see page 7**



Marilyn Monroe exhibit at Dayton Art Institute

80 artists' work on display; one-woman biographical play among events

By GERY L. DEER
For The Downtowner

Marilyn Monroe was a symbol of the changing face of America during the 1950s and 60s.

The country was losing its innocence and Marilyn was the alluring and sultry shape of things to come.

She was the most photographed woman in America and 45 years after her tragic death, the fascination with Norma Jean Baker remains as strong as ever.

The Dayton Art Institute is bringing Marilyn to life once again in a unique combination of art and performance.

"Marilyn Monroe: Life as a Legend," which opens April 28 and runs through June 24, is a collection of more than 260 photographs, prints, paintings, videos and sculpture that presents a unique look at the life and image of Monroe. Visitors will see the blonde bombshell through the eyes and artwork of Andy Warhol, Bert Stern, Allen Jones and more.

The 80 artists whose work is included in this exhibition demonstrate quality and diversity in depicting Monroe in both her public and private life.

"The contemporary artists in this exhibition present a dynamic and challenging idea about Marilyn Monroe, celebrity, and her status as an American icon," said Laine Snyder, assistant curator of American and European art.

Presented in conjunction with the art exhibit will be the one-woman play *Marilyn: Forever Blonde* written by award-winning producer and writer Greg Thompson. Directed by Stephanie Shine, actress Sunny Thompson portrays Marilyn as a career woman caught up in a man's world as she tells her story in her own words.

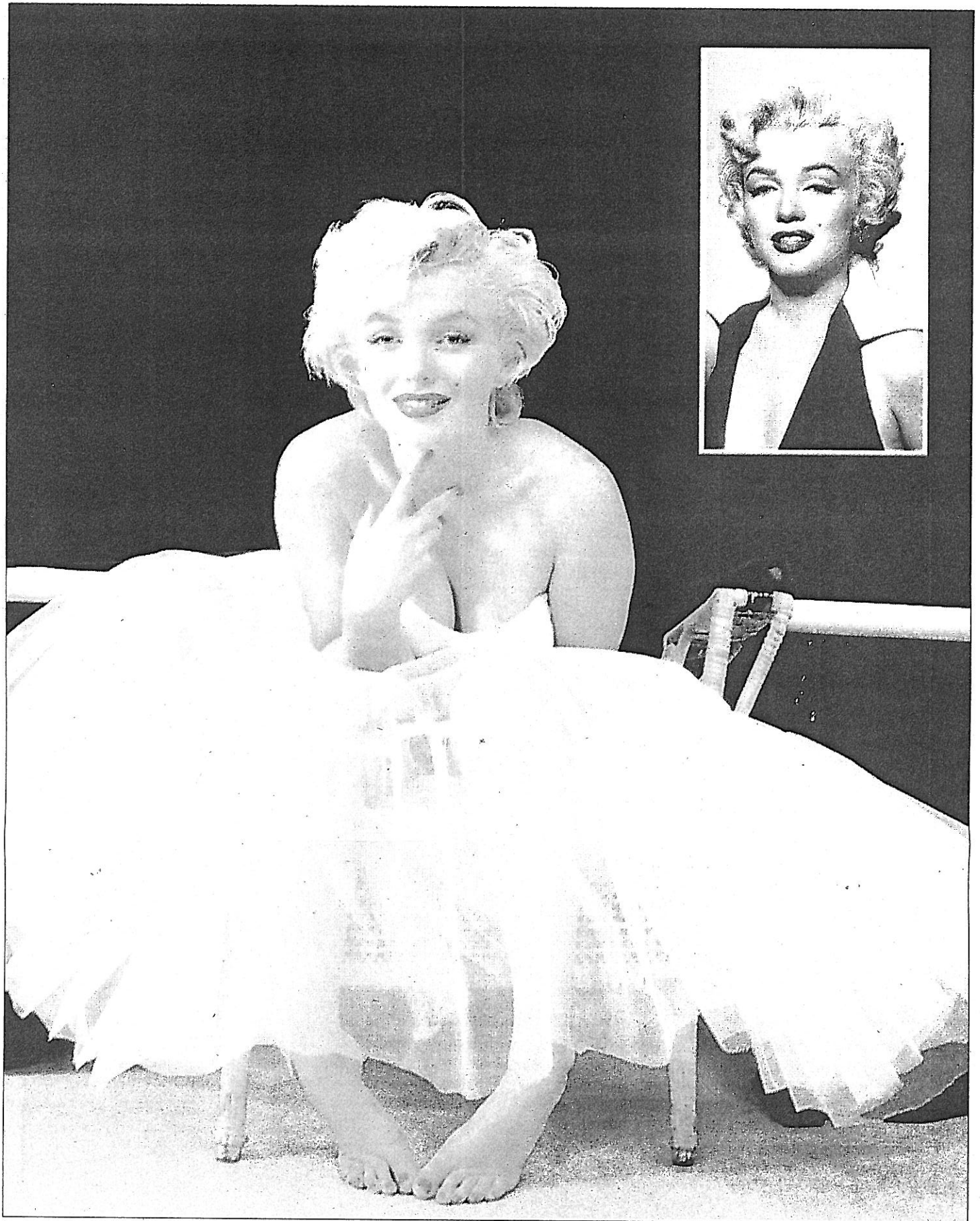
The script was researched from hundreds of quotes by Marilyn herself. Thompson gives the audience a glimpse of a powerful woman whose end came far too soon for a Hollywood legend.

The art exhibit will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with extended hours on Thursdays and Fridays until 8 p.m.

Marilyn: Forever Blonde will be performed in the museum's NCR Renaissance Auditorium on Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays at 2 p.m. and Fridays at 8 p.m.

According to DAI's director of communications Kim Patton, "To avoid crowds, it's best to come early in the week or on Thursday and Friday evenings when the museum is open until 8 p.m."

The Dayton Art Institute is located at 456 Belmonte Park North in Dayton just off of Grand Avenue. For more information, call (800) 296-4426 or visit www.daytonart.institute.org.



Among the works on display at the Dayton Art Institute are 'Marilyn Monroe, New York City Ballerina' by Milton H. Greene and a silver gelatin print by Frank Powlony (inset).