

P R O F I L E

Fantasies from fabric and foam

by Duff Bishop

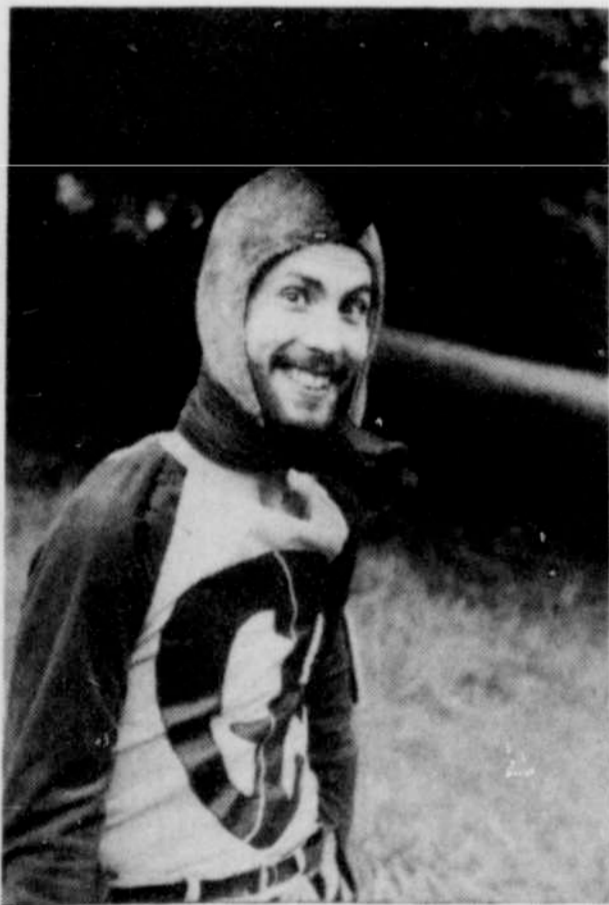
Wanna wear a vitamin bottle? How about Manhattan's Chrysler Building? No problem. Just tell Arthur Harold and he'll put it together for you. He fashions costumes such as these, and many others, out of fabric and foam.

Arthur has been making costumes since he was in college. He graduated from Lewis and Clark about 6 years ago and his first job was in Ric Young's costume shop at the old Storefront Actors Theatre on North Russell Street. That's where he made the Chrysler Building for *Rutabaga Country*, a childrens' show.

"I am a sculptor," Arthur says. "I make sculptures which can be worn."

A couple of years ago he made a very sexy washing machine out of foam and peach colored satin for another childrens' show, which caused one wag to comment that it might warp the kids' minds. The show also had a huge refrigerator complete with opening door, all out of fabric and foam.

For about four years Arthur worked in restaurants supplementing his meager income with costume contracts, but now he has gone into business with another costumer, Robin Chilstrom. This past summer Arthur and Robin made three huge Nike shoes, Arthur's first. Robin's made about a dozen of them, alone.



Robin and Arthur have worked together many times during the past five years; they met at Storefront. Robin created the costumes for Luna Pettibone's *Epsilon Eridani* and Arthur helped her put them together.

Currently they are up to their eyeballs in foam and fabric putting together several vitamin bottles for Great Earth Vitamins. Arthur's bottles were the hit of the Great Earth Vitamin franchisers convention this summer, according to Dee Haflik, manager of the Washington Street store in Portland.

In addition to the vitamin bottles, Arthur



created a "Super Chicken" for Great Earth Vitamins. On top, Arthur says, is a *Famous Amos* cookie for a store in Santa Monica, California.

When Arthur can manage to tear himself away from his sculpture/costumes, he

indulges his first love, acting. He recently appeared in ART's hit, *The Dresser*, at the Wilson Center for the Performing Arts. His previous acting credits include Portland Civic Theatre's *Hot I Baltimore*, Theatre Workshop's *Power* (both directed by Melinda Pitt-

man), and Sumus' *Of Mice and Men* and *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, among others.

So, if you see a vitamin bottle roaming Portland's streets you'll know it's a home-grown (home sewn?) product. And inside is Dalana Lyn, another Storefront alumnus.

Photos by Jay Brown