

Drama students experience success after college

by Andrea Smith
Staff Writer

The Theater Department at Clackamas Community College has had its share of former student success stories. Some have pursued acting, others set design, directing, and theater administration.

Among the many accomplished former theater majors, three people have made an outstanding contribution to the arts.

Patrick Sterling left Clackamas in 1986 to attend Southern Utah University on a full scholarship for his work in theater. While at Utah, he received awards for "Best Actor of the Year" in both 1986 and 1987.

After graduation, he worked in Las Vegas at the Excalibur Resort Hotel. There he performed stage shows, puppet shows, juggling and did crowd warm-up for the Excalibur's trademark "King Arthur Review."

Sterling's longtime friends Diana Bauer and Neil Hass went to Las Vegas to see the show. "Pat did this impersonation of Phil Hartman doing Ed McMahon," Bauer said. "It was really funny. It's hard to impersonate someone impersonating someone else."

After a successful stay in Vegas, Sterling was asked to work for a resort in Sun City, Botswana in Africa. He has remained in South Africa as an entertainer at the Sun City Theater. There he is a cast member for the variety show "Viva Sun City."

Although he is enjoying his work, Bauer said he "is homesick. He has a lot of good friends here."

Sterling came back to Clackamas in 1990 to portray the part of Reverend T. Laurence Shannon in the college's produc-

tion of Tennessee Williams' "The Night of the Iguana."

"Pat has a lot of respect for Jack Shields (Chairman of Communication and Theater Arts). They became really close friends. That's one reason Pat came back to do 'Night'," Bauer said.

Lynn Myers Lewis graduated from Clackamas in 1984. She had been a secretary before returning to school to earn

her degree in business. She was eligible for a work-study job, and because she didn't want to be a secretary, she asked Jack Shields for work in the theater department.

"Jack gave me a big bear hug and said he wanted me to be in charge of costumes. I told him I didn't know anything about costuming. I didn't even know how to sew! But, Jack had confidence in me. He is so incredibly supportive," Lewis said.

Lewis continued her education at Portland State University. Though she remained a business major, she wanted to be involved with theater and eventually decided to pursue a double major.

That decision was a good one, as she is now the program director for "Young Audiences," a non-profit organization to promote the arts to children.

"Young Audiences" hires professional artists to bring a variety of art forms to school

children all over Oregon and Southwest Washington," Lewis said.

"I get to use my theater experience and my business background in this job. I help artists figure out the best way to present their work to kids, I'm involved with sales and marketing and I'm an administrator.

"I couldn't have done it without Clackamas' theater department," Lewis continued.

"My experience there gave me the confidence I needed. In theater arts, you learn how to

working on the sets of 24 films. He has been the Head Scenic Artist, Prop Master or Special Effects Artist for movies like "Body of Evidence", "The Temp", and the soon-to-be-released "Imaginary Crimes."

"I hardly ever see the movies I work on," Poore said.

In the years before his design work, Poore was an actor. He had roles in "East of Eden" starring James Dean, Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds", "Paint Your Wagon" with Clint Eastwood, and 19 other films.

He was also in six episodes of the television series "The Streets of San Francisco."

"I'm not an actor anymore," Poore said.

"I was never a very serious actor. I lived next door to the set for 'East of Eden', that's how I got a part. My friends and I used to follow James Dean around.

"I came to Clackamas Community College on the advice of a friend," Poore explained.

"I was a fragmented artist trying to find myself. Jack Shields said I should be a technical director. I listened to him so long I became one.

"I had no idea going to a community college was going to make that much difference in my life," Poore concluded.

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- Dennis Poore
Former CCC drama student

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