

Freels' work brings a unique expression to art department

Joel P. Shempert
Staff Writer

CCC student Brandon Freels has brought his unique brand of expression to the Clackamas Art Department, creating a memorable and imaginative display.

Freels' semi-abstract paintings are displayed in the Art Center, and are a result of many influences and inspirations.

As odd as it may seem in light of Freels' more modern style, he actually uses old masters' works as the basis for much of his art. Claiming that it's easier to reference paintings than it is to rely on models, he generally takes an existing work as a foundation, then adds his personal interpretation, making the work his own.

While he may draw material from old masters, Freels' stylistic influences run into a more abstract vein. It should come as no surprise to those who have viewed his work that Freels was influenced a good deal first by Matisse, then later by Picasso.

He also admires the work of contemporary painter Renee McGreet, whose difficult-to-describe abstract work is a continual source of amazement to Freels.

"I do normal stuff then paint them weird, but he does weird stuff and paints them normal," remarks Freels, adding that he has found himself unable to duplicate McGreet's technique.

'Kids In The Hall' to release first movie, 'Brain Candy'

Andrew Beck
Staff Writer

Fans of the Canadian comedy troupe, "Kids In The Hall," will flock to movie theaters this Friday as the group releases its first motion picture movie, *Brain Candy*.

The movie (released by Paramount Pictures), is the group's first collaboration since their TV show ended in 1995. Kids in The Hall members, David Foley, Bruce McCulloch, Kevin McDonald, Mark McKinney and Scott Thompson, honed their sketch comedy ability in coffee shops and restaurants around the Toronto area for five years before being discovered for television. "Kith," as the group is known by fans, was signed in 1989 to do their own television show on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation by famous Saturday Night Live producer Lorne Michaels. The Kith show ran from 1989 to 1995 on both Canadian and American television. Michaels also worked with Kith on their new movie, serving as the film's producer.

Brain Candy may seem just like a long sketch on the Kith television show for die-hard fans, but the casual movie goer will also be entertained by the Canadian comedians' effort. One of the movie's main attractions is Kith's ability's is to use their wide acting range to play several different comedic characters. In fact, the five men play over a hundred new characters in the movie. Actor Bruce McCulloch goes

Freels was interested in art at an early age, but almost gave up for good when he encountered an unsupportive art teacher in high school who offered no encouragement. Freels quit high school art, but here at Clackamas he was, under the tutelage of the ever supportive Leland John, was able to bring out the artistic side of himself once more.

Freels is now doing what he enjoys, and is making the most of his college experience.

"When doing college stuff, I just experiment--that's the real thing," he professes. "The key is to experiment and play around."

In doing this, Freels starts with multiple sketches based on his source material, then selects those which are the best looking. He says, for instance, that when dealing with one source, a girl's face, he did several finished works based on his sketches. The works are all vastly different--the piece on display at the Art Center even appears to be male.

Freels is truly a promising young artist who deserves to have his work seen. Though he's a bit shy, he's also very personable.

"I kind of use art as emotion, to get out disgruntled feelings," he says. "... so I don't do much if I don't feel bad," he adds with a grin. Freels is indeed interesting and unique--both in spirit and in art.

from playing Cisco, a male advertising executive, to the vastly different character, Alice, a introverted female research assistant in love with her boss.

"I'm not going to lie to you, it was difficult getting back together after almost a year of separation. Yet, during the filming of the movie we were able to find some of the creative fervor that made us so successful as a group," said 'Kids' actor Scott Thompson, via telephone from New York.

"The audience will be surprised at how similar the characters in the movie are to the characters we acted on the television show, the policemen, Mark (McKinney) and Bruce (McColloch) play, in the movie were derived from the ones on the television show."

The plot of *Brain Candy* develops when a large pharmaceutical company, Roritor Pharmaceutical, sees that its profits are dropping drastically because they do not have any new products on the market. Roritor turns to its research and development department for a solution and gets one from Dr. Cooper (played by Kevin McDonald). Dr. Cooper has been working on the world's most effective anti-depressant drug and feels he has made a break-through. Unfortunately, Roritor gets ahold of his drug and releases the "Brain Candy" before its been deemed safe.

Brain Candy, opens for audiences nation wide this coming Friday, Apr. 12.

Shields to retire after 23 years at CCC

Paul Ulmen
Staff Writer

"CCC has been my professional home for a long time. My leaving the people here is a great personal loss," says Jack Shields who will retire from the college in August as the Associate Dean of Art & Humanities & Social Science.

Did someone say retire? "The world is stretched out before me," said Shields, who plans to travel as well as look for freelance acting and directing jobs and maybe even try to "bust into the voice business."

He still maintains outside theater activities both as an actor and director. Since he has a house on the beach, he is a "devoted beach bum" and will continue that and practice up on his poems. "Sounds real joyful to me," he says with a grin.

Before Shields was hired full time, he taught at CCC in the summers of 1971 and 1972, directing plays in the newly constructed McLoughlin Hall.

After directing a play called *The Apple Tree*, the cast gave the college an apple tree, "which is still there and bearing fruit every summer," he said.

He was the Director of Theater and Arts until 1993, when he was promoted to his present position of co-coordinating department chair. The last play he directed was *Into the Woods*.

Shields is originally from Oregon and was raised on a farm close to the area which is now Clackamas Town Center and the Harmony Center. After graduating from Milwaukie High School, he went to Oregon State University and majored in medicine, but flunked out after five terms.

"It isn't the end of the world if some have trouble in classes," said Shields. Not to be deterred, he then went to Vancouver's Clark College to bring his GPA back up.

At Clark he got into theater arts and at that point the direc-

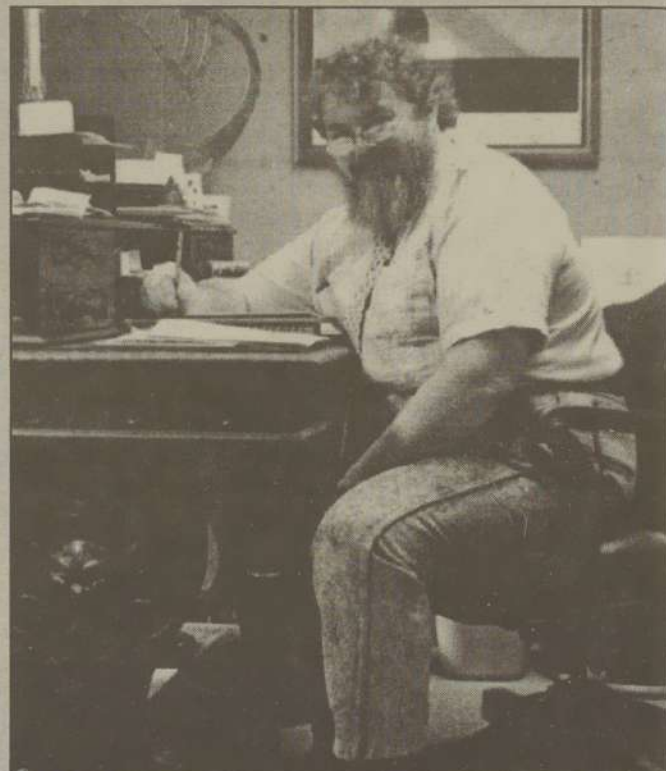


Photo by Paul Ulmen

Jack Shields, after 23 years here at CCC, will be retiring this August.

tor suggested he go into teaching. "The thought was an anathema to me and it took a few months for the suggestion to fester," he said.

Shields went back to OSU to study pre-med again and this time brought his GPA up to a 4.0.

"I was raised on a farm and was told when you get bucked off, you get back on. I had to ride the horse of pre-med again for a term, the horse that bucked me."

But while at Clark his direction had become clear to him and he transferred to PSU and got into theater.

He was inspired by Hermine Duthie Decker, the drama instructor; there is now a campus theater named after her.

During his last term he was able to do some student teaching and again in the fall of 1965, under the same drama teacher he had in high school. He eventually applied for an administration job and was accepted.

"Not without some effort and some skill on my part and being at the right place at the right time

got me to where I am today. Even flunking out helped me," stated Shields.

He expressed his regret at leaving the college and his friends. After sitting in on classes and evaluating teachers as part of his job, he feels the college is "filled with truly great and startling people. We have glorious people here, wonderful folks."

Shields feels that getting an education here is far superior than one at another institution.

"Studies have shown students who start here end up with a better GPA than if they had gone to a university and probably a better education. At four year colleges some teaching is done by a graduate assistant, but here the focus is on instruction," said Shields.

"We have to remember learning is not a spectator sport and students are responsible for what they learn. Teachers can help, but can't do that job," added Shields.

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