

A man with many faces...

Jayson Shanafelt



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A&E Editor

Most people would think a performer who played major roles in eight college productions and countless high school presentations emerged from the womb as an actor. The opposite is true for Jayson Shanafelt, 21, a Theater Arts major and lead player in Clackamas' fall production of *House of Blue Leaves*.

"I remembered recently that in grade school, they had one of those Thanksgiving pageants where they have all the kids go up and sing, and I told my mom I was sick because I was scared to go," said Shanafelt. "[That is] a complete 180 for me now."

Shanafelt overcame his fear and began his acting career in middle school with *The True Story of Rap*, which he described as "the male version of *Rapunzel*." He calls his love of acting a fluke.

"I liked being silly and joking around, and I thought, 'hey I'll take acting class,' and I just sort of got into it," explained Shanafelt. "All my friends were very artistic, not just in the theater realm, but also painting and singing, and I got into singing as well."

Shanafelt was featured in commercials for Northwest Futon as their "mascot" and self-described "futon boy," during his years at West Linn High School, where he took on many roles including King Claudius in Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and a part in *Godspell*, a musical.

"[*Godspell*] was a fantastic experience I had, religiously and emotionally, and it really



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Jayson Shanafelt, a theatre major, says his love of being silly and joking around led him into the world of acting.

helped me grow," said Shanafelt. "They have a great program [at West Linn]."

After graduating from West Linn, Shanafelt came to Clackamas, where he has been a staple at every major theater production for the past two years.

"I like entertaining," said Shanafelt. "My goal is to create characters who are significantly different than I, and people can watch and be entertained and say 'hey, I don't see Jayson there, I see the character.'"

Shanafelt's characters can

be arguably time-consuming. For each play at Clackamas, there are three-hour rehearsals on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and sometimes Sunday. In addition to the time spent in the theater, Shanafelt also works 20 hours per week at an insurance company and is enrolled in three classes at the college.

Shanafelt says this is his third and final year at Clackamas, where he learned invaluable lessons about acting and actors.

"Everyone that I've worked with has really helped me

evolve," said Shanafelt. "One of the most important things of being an actor, being on stage, is teamwork."

"If the other person that you are acting with, if their character is different," he added, "then that will change who your character is, because you are made up of responses and actions."

Although he has been actively involved in the Theatre Dept. at Clackamas, Shanafelt is unsure about future endeavors into the

acting world.

"People are urging me to go into this field," said Shanafelt. "It's just whether I am willing to sacrifice to do that."



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As Henry Drummond, the defense attorney in *Inherit the Wind*, Shanafelt argued to keep the teaching of evolution in schools.

Shanafelt played Torvald Helmer, a patronizing husband in *A Doll's House*.



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Shanafelt hams it up as Sir Andrew Aguecheek in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.

Shanafelt had to sing and play the piano for the role of Artie Shaughnessy in this fall's *House of Blue Leaves*.



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