

REEL NEWS

Fall 2004

Detroit Area Film & Television (DAFT)
An Educational Association

DAFT IN D.C.

VSA Arts (formerly Very Special Arts) is an international organization devoted to creating a society where people with disabilities can learn, participate and enjoy the arts. This past June their work was on glorious display in our nation's capitol. Four DAFT instructors, Annette Alexander-Frank, John Prusak, Vic Spicer and Julie Youngblood were invited to the VSA International conference in Washington DC to present a workshop about how film/video can be used with special populations.

In the session they shared dozens of short, mostly animated, videos created by students from lower elementary through high school with a range of cognitive, emotional and/or physical disabilities. They discussed their experiences and observations

about the power of animation and video as a catalyst for expression and as a source of pride and recognition for students with special needs. They met with educators from all over the world and were reminded how far this country's policies for special education have progressed in comparison with some others.

But the heart of the conference was the artists themselves. Impressive visual arts from around



the world were on display or shown in demonstrations. Performers sang, danced in wheelchairs, acted, and played all variety of musical instruments, delighting and inspiring all

those fortunate enough to be there. For more information about VSA visit their website at www.vsarts.org

(A) VSA student (B) Julie Youngblood, Annette Alexander-Frank, Vic Spicer in Washington D.C. for the VSA Conference. (John Prusak is behind the camera)

ART IN MOTION

This past summer DAFT sponsored *Art in Motion*, our first animation workshop especially for teachers and interested adults. Modeled after our long-running Focal Point workshop, it was designed to provide an intense week of instruction resulting in a completed work. In this case the finished work is a compilation video that illustrates several animation techniques which can serve as a teaching tool.

The first group of students was

small but had within it a wide array of creative skills – painters, sculptors, photographers, and singers. The staff were all DAFT veteran teachers, cinematographer John Prusak, animator Vic Spicer, artists Julie Youngblood and Annette Alexander-Frank. The workshop was held at the Howell Nature Center and several of the students and instructors stayed overnight at the lodge so animation could continue well into the evening – a real advantage for such a time

consuming activity.

The world premiere for *Art in Motion* will be Saturday, October 2nd at the Cranbrook Art Museum from 4 p.m. through 6 p.m. with two showings of the 30-minute work. The screening itself is free but requires a small museum admission fee of \$6 which allows those attending to also see the exhibit on display at the museum.

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TELEVISION WATCHING AND SMOKING AMONG YOUTH

Despite industry claims that the waves of anti-smoking commercials have deterred youth smoking, the prestigious journal *Pediatrics* has reached a different conclusion. A major longitudinal study shows that kids who are heavy TV watchers are six times more likely to start smoking than their limited-viewing counterparts.

The study's researchers found that kids who watched five or more hours

of TV per day were nearly six times more likely to start smoking than those who watched two hours or less. On a more positive note, they also found hope for those who wish to reverse established bad habits; reducing the amount of TV kids watch can also reduce the number of kids who start smoking.

Previous research has already linked childhood TV watching with obesity (both its severity and its

longevity), poor nutrition, depression and inactivity.

Because of this and other findings, the American Association of Pediatrics has issued a policy statement, "Children, Adolescents and Television," in which it recommends that parents limit children's total time with entertainment media to no more than one to two hours of high-quality programming per day.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Dan Scanlon is living his dream. From the time he attended elementary school in Clawson he wanted to make movies. His first film ("The Fwebicks") was made when he was only 9 years old.

He kept focused throughout his high school career and made a Best of Show animation ("Andy") at the MSFV while attending the William D. Ford Career Tech. Center in Westland. He is also a charter mem-

ber of the Student Animation Workshop (SAW).

After graduating in 1994, he attended the Columbus School of Art on a scholarship where he majored in animation. In 1998, he started his first job with an animation company in Columbus called Character Builders where he worked on Disney sequels ("Little Mermaid 2" and "101 Dalmations 2").

In 2001, Dan headed west to California and landed a job at PIXAR. He is a storyboard artist for director, John Lassiter and is currently working on a new feature animation called "CARS."

Working on a big feature film is keeping Dan pretty busy. He said that they will have drawn more



than 40,000 storyboard panels for "CARS" before it's completed. At 28 years old, Dan is still living his dream.

(A) Dan and John Prusak at the entrance to PIXAR. (B) Dan Scanlon



STUDENT ANIMATION WORKSHOP – EARLY DEADLINE THIS YEAR

Each year for the past 13 years, 24 young people from across the state have been selected to be part of this special workshop series. DAFT looks for excellent artists, strong writers, people with video and computer skills. Students will experience all phases of animation production: planning, storyboarding, scripting, shooting, editing, graphics, and

audio mixing.

The students meet for one week-end each in January, February, March, and April to work on their productions. In May, those who successfully complete the workshop will be invited to attend the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, a three-day celebration of the arts with performances and workshops, at Western

Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

Detroit Area Film and Television makes this unique workshop available through a generous grant from Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. Call or email the DAFT office for more information or to obtain an application. The deadline is December 1, 2004.

WHO:

The Student Animation Workshop is open to mature high school students who are interested in film and video animation. The nature of the workshop series dictates that students must be responsible, self-motivated, and willing to do work between the workshop dates. The students will be working with professional animators, filmmakers, and video producers. These people include:

- **John Prusak** ~ an instructor of film/video and animation at Wayne State University. He is an independent cinematographer who has won numerous local and national awards.
- **Vic Spicer** ~ a professional animator and musician whose work has appeared on MTV. He has also served as Artist-in-Residence at many schools throughout the state and is currently a TV commercial producer.
- **Annette Alexander-Frank** ~ an art and video teacher who has taught animation to young people for over 20 years. She is the president of DAFT and coordinates their student programs.
- Our assistant instructors are **Thomas Mansell**, former workshop participant with degrees in telecommunications and writing and **Julie Youngblood**, an artist with an MFA in film.

WHEN:

January 7, 8, 9 Pre-Production
February 18, 19, 20 Production
March 4, 5, 6 Production
April 8, 9, 10 Post-Production
May 12, 13, 14 Michigan Youth Arts
Festival, Western MI
University, Kalamazoo

WHERE:

Howell Nature Center is a camp and educational facility in Howell, midway between Lansing and Detroit. Students arrive at Howell Nature Center by 7 p.m. on Friday and stay overnight. Work continues all day Saturday, then students sleep over Saturday night, have breakfast, finish working, clean up, and leave at 1 p.m. Sunday. Meals and snacks are provided. Students and chaperones sleep in dorms clustered around a central lodge with a large work area and showers. Students need to bring sleeping bag, pillow and towels.

FEES:

The workshop is supported by a generous grant from MCACA. The student's portion of the fee for the workshop series is \$300 and covers expenses for all five weekends.

DAFT VILMS AT MAEA CONFERENCE

The Michigan Art Education Association will be showing a number of DAFT sponsored vilms at their annual fall conference in Battle Creek. John Prusak will be presenting the 2004 edition of the Michigan Student Film/Video Festival and productions from the 13th annual Student Animation Workshop (SAW). This gives art teachers from all over the state of Michigan an opportunity to see what students are doing with

video and animation.

In addition, Prusak will be showing two art related productions: "SILVIO: A Story About Art and Pizza," a documentary about Silvio Barile, a baker and folk artist who works in concrete sculpture, and "Legacy in Bronze," a documentary that follows sculptor Sergio DeGiusti, in his creation of bronze relief sculpture for the labor monument "Transcending" in Hart Plaza.

This year's MAEA fall conference will be held from October 21-24, 2004 in Battle Creek.

ERIC LEVIN, REALTOR

248.645.2500 office
248.891.1041 cell
ericlevin11@yahoo.com

Cranbrook Associates, Inc
33687 Woodward Ave.
Birmingham, MI 48009

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

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State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

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Occupation _____

General \$50
(monthly membership meetings, DAFT newsletter)

Patron \$75
(monthly membership meetings, DAFT newsletter, movie passes)

Student/Senior General \$35
(monthly membership meetings, DAFT newsletter)

Student/Senior Patron \$60
(monthly membership meetings, DAFT newsletter, movie passes)

\$_____ I would like to make an additional contribution.

DAFT membership year runs from September through May.

**Because of the quick turnaround needed for arranging some movie previews, an email address is preferred.
Movie passes may be limited if you do not provide an email address.*

Your donation to DAFT makes a difference in the life of a young person.

\$5 - Buys one Animation Peg Bar

\$25 - Buys 100 Animation Cells for a student at SAW

\$50 - Allows one student room and board for a weekend at the Student Animation Workshop (SAW)

\$75 - Buys a new light box for SAW

\$100 - Allows one student room and board at the Youth Arts Festival in Kalamazoo

\$565 - Allows one student to attend the Focal Point Workshop

Make your check payable to **DAFT**. Thank you.

LEGACY IN BRONZE PREMIER PLANNED

Legacy in Bronze is a 28-minute film that documents the work of Detroit artist/sculptor, Sergio DeGiusti. The film follows DeGiusti from concept to installation of the work, *Transcending*, located in Hart Plaza, Detroit, Michigan.

Transcending is a collaboration, with artist David Barr, whose gleaming arc-like stainless steel sculpture is complemented by DeGiusti's interpretation of historic labor events. DeGiusti's bronze reliefs are mounted on cut granite stones from Vermont. The reliefs encompass the symbolic circle of *Transcending*, representing the never-ending cycle of work.

The movie, *Legacy in Bronze*, enables the viewer to see the whole process of creating bronze relief sculptures. Witness the creativity of DeGiusti, whose work will last for centuries in Michigan. This documentary conveys a strong appreciation for this unique art form as well as an enlightening perspective of the labor movement in Michigan.

Legacy in Bronze, co-produced by

local award-winning filmmakers, John Prusak and Kathy Vander, will be entered in film festivals. VHS and DVD copies will be available to the public and will be given to libraries and schools in the Detroit metropolitan area. The premier is being planned for December 2004. Details will be released when they become available.

(A) *Transcending*, located in Hart Plaza, Detroit, Michigan (B) Sergio DeGiusti, Detroit artist/sculptor



ART *continued from page 1*

The first year was such an outstanding success that we have already set the date for next summer's session. *Art in Motion II* will be the week of August 1 - 5, 2005 at the Howell Nature Center. Save the

dates and call or email the DAFT office to be sure you get the registration forms when they are printed.

GERALD A. SNIDERMAN & ASSOCIATES

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

26339 Woodward Avenue
Huntington Woods, MI 48070

(248) 548-1200
Fax (248) 548-1909

Initial Video

Duplication Services

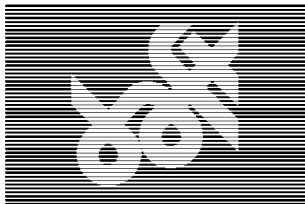
Dennis & Judy Smith
712 West Webster
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Voice 248.577.3285
Fax 248.577.3298
initialvideo@earthlink.net



Detroit Area Film & Television
 PO Box 1443
 Royal Oak, MI 48068-1443

website: www.daftonline.org
e-mail: areyoudaft@hotmail.com



DETROIT AREA FILM & TELEVISION

Detroit Area Film & Television is a not-for profit organization whose stated mission is to promote visual literacy. We hold monthly general membership meetings where a short informational session is followed by the screening of a feature film. We conduct workshops, conferences and festivals for teachers and students, and give support to emerging film and video producers. We receive generous support in our efforts from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs.

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2004-2005 DAFT SEASON

Sept. 18 *Wimbledon*
 Oct. 16 *TBA*
 Nov. 20 *TBA*
 Dec. 11 *TBA*
 Jan. 15 *TBA*
 Feb. 19 *TBA*
 March 19 *TBA*
 April 16 *TBA*
 May 7 . . *MI Student Film & Video Festival*
 May 21 *TBA*

DAFT MEETING DATES 2004/2005 SEASON

Sept. 18, 2004 *(3rd Saturday)*
 Oct. 16, 2004 *(3rd Saturday)*
 Nov. 20, 2004 *(3rd Saturday)*
 Dec. 11, 2004 *(2nd Saturday)*
 Jan. 15, 2005 *(3rd Saturday)*
 Feb. 19, 2005 *(3rd Saturday)*
 March 19, 2005 *(3rd Saturday)*
 April 16, 2005 *(3rd Saturday)*
 May 21, 2005 *(3rd Saturday)*

PO Box 1443
Royal Oak, MI 48068-1443
Ph 248 547-0847
Fax 248 547-1223

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Annette Alexander-Frank, <i>president</i>	Ashley Gorman	Kathy Vander
Janice M. King, <i>vice-president</i>	Marie Medlin	Julie Youngblood
Thomas Mansell, <i>secretary</i>	Laurie Peyok	Ann Coleman
Gerald Viedrah, <i>treasurer</i>	John Prusak	Dan Grashuck