

In FOCUS

Brandon Hodges

Through the visual arts, individuals are able to utilize raw elements and materials to craft expressive works that portray various elements of life and society. To explore the genre of visual arts, our students had the opportunity to tour the Ackland Art Museum, located in Chapel Hill. "The Ackland Art Museum exists to bring people and works of art together. The Museum acquires, preserves, exhibits and interprets works of art as an academic unit of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to fulfill the University's mission to provide teaching, research and public service for the citizens of North Carolina. As part of UNC-Chapel Hill the Ackland advances the University's global reach through artistic and scholarly collaborations with national and international partners," as stated in the mission statement of the Ackland Art Museum.

Through a creative interactive experience our students viewed works of their choice and were able to evaluate them based on a given set of criteria. A wide variety of works were selected by the students; from Buddhist statues to Romanesque paintings, each representing unique cultures and subsequent artistic styles. One of the highlights of the afternoon was a tour of a featured Islamic exhibit at the museum. In response to the recent tragedies surrounding Sept. 11, an active effort was taken by the Ackland to introduce and clarify myths regarding the Islamic faith. Through the exhibition of various religious objects, an emphasis was placed on the artistic values within cultures, even if an artistic message is secondary to a religious one. The students had the opportunity to embrace a new

culture via artistic expression, showing just one of many far-reaching effects art has on society and our lives.

Prior to our visit of the Ackland Museum, our students also had the opportunity to view a small exhibit in the gallery of the Frank Porter Graham Student Union. The exhibit in the Union was an assemblage of paintings depicting native life in the Samoan Islands. Many works featured vivid images of the ocean and the coastline where many of the Samoans were shown fishing, cooking, and constructing crafts and pieces of art. A strong emphasis was placed on communal living and the interdepend-

ence of everyone within the village. The works were also distinctive because of their use of varying hues of blue. Many works were highlighted by light blue, turquoise, and deep indigo, which were contrasted with lighter green and earth tones. The students had a fantastic time comparing and contrasting the works, as well as describing the features of each work that stood out most in their eyes. The exhibition provided a very useful transition for the students in terms of critiquing works of art, which would prove to be helpful in their later observations in the Ackland Art Museum.



*Art from the collection of the
Ackland Art Museum
The University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill*



Below are a sampling of the critiques composed by IOV students in reference to the art exhibitions they observed:

Kaay Harrison on the Samoan art exhibit:

"In the painting I saw two ladies that were smiling. The people in the painting looked very happy because they were praying to their God. The artwork showed monks on their knees, looking up to the cross that their God was on. Some of God's people were around the back of the painting and the priest was looking in from behind the door. One of the monks was holding a cup of wine and the other one was holding a piece of bread. I believe the piece is trying to show that all people take time to pray to their Gods. I think it was a good piece of artwork because it showed how other religions pray to their Gods and share in their communion."

Rosa Brigman on "Ogun" in the Ackland Museum:

"In Ogun by Renee Stout, I saw different materials put together to form art, like a machine. The tools used were animals' claws, tiny tools, doll heads, bags, an accordion, a pulley, and a bell. The tools were objects that were found and put together to form a three dimensional structure. The sculpture was a traditional power object, which represents spiritual forces and personalities. Ogun symbolizes strength and protection and energy. The object functions to handle

pain and as a tribute to ancestors who will give guidance to future generations of young black men. The work was good because it drew your attention and took your breath away when looking at it."

Kristen Gaddy on the Samoan art exhibit:

"Women in the South Pacific use creative occupations to survive poverty. A woman named Lonise Godinet is in the sewing business and sews Puletasi, which is the traditional outfit that most women wear on a daily basis. Most women in the South Pacific work in the home to make money. Jobs of most women consist of tie

ion. The painting seemed to lack details. For example, the background was made up of plants which were dotted on the screen in the window."

Brandon Hodges on art and personal experience:

As an avid artist I can honestly say that this genre has a way of touching people in a way that transcends mere words and expressions. Like so many of the other genres we have explored this year, I can attest to the fact that visual art has had a major impact on the way I interpret the world and the way I choose to define myself within it. While pursu-

ing my interest in art I have learned so many lessons that extend beyond the canvas and the brush; I have learned how to channel certain emotions and feelings, as well as convey thoughts and ideas more vividly and creatively. I believe an active effort should be made to establish more programs such as IOV, because many students have immense talent that will never

Through a creative interactive experience our students viewed works of their choice and were able to evaluate them based on a given set of criteria.

dying, vegetable gardening, pig owning, and weaving. Alley Lip painted "Acrylics on Paper". In the painting, a woman sews clothes. Lonise wore plastic pearls and large earrings. She seemed to be old because of the wrinkles around her eyes in which the artist painted a purplish color. The face seemed realistic because of the colors mixed to make a complex-

be fully shared unless encouragement is given. I believe IOV exemplifies a communal effort to build up our youth and allows them to explore interests that may not fall into the norms of society. Most importantly I feel that the program helps the students realize their true potential and encourages them to be the best individuals they can be.

In DA CLUB

by Kenji Johnson

The first effort of Movement Productions "Mplications" fashion show resembled the atmosphere of a Saturday night party as the dim lights shown upon the faces of the audience. IOV counselors and students as well as various other spectators made their way into club NV to the sounds of Jay-Z's latest "Blueprint 2: The Gift and the Curse" bumping through the speakers. As spectators bobbed their heads to the music while expressing what was cute, what wasn't, what was tasteful, and what was tasteless, models from various groups showed off suits, studded jeans, feminine athletic wear, and military fashions among other things. The show featured designers and models from North Carolina State University's "Black Finesse", University of North Carolina's "Concepts of Color" and "MP models" in addition to independent designs from "designs by Renetta", "Yceshaur" (pronounced ice-is-



hot) by Summer Hutchins, and "designs by Keisha." Although a fashion show, models, designers, and spectators alike were given the opportunity to show off their favorite dance moves for the intermissions and the after party.

In an effort to understand what goes into putting together a fashion show and understanding how models feel about the designs they're showing, IOV decided to go behind the scenes with interviews from some of the models as well as IOV's own Alonzo M. "Mac" Alston.

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Below you will read excerpts from an interview given by Kaay to IOV counselor Alonzo M. "Mac" Alston:

A: I began MP because I felt that college students should be given an opportunity to pursue their dreams. College provided an abundance of resources and the more and more I noticed that doors were wide open I felt it was my duty to step through them. Students often overlook that they are enabled to maximize their potential by tapping into those resources. I was going to let that opportunity pass me by. MP's purpose is to champion ethnic entrepreneurship, youth initiative, and to move people towards their dreams. Ultimately, MP is about giving back to community by providing these means for people to start working on their careers and life goals.

K: Why did you choose to do the fashion show?

A: Well it was supposed to come across as more of an event. We had buyers there, a film crew, photographers, modeling scouts, we had 5 modeling groups represented,

we had 4 designers represented, Mary Jane from K-97.5 was there, national touring DJ MC was there of the Untouchables, and most importantly we had you guys. I just want people to know that I'm serious about MP and what it does. It will only be more professional and more impressive. The show/event was meant to "implicate" hence "Mplications" the various talents from the troupes etc — into the professional role they had career aspirations for. That's why the show didn't have a theme based on the clothing because that was the theme. So if a designer wants their own line we at MP implicated them as a full-scale fashion designer. It's like pretending on a very real level.

K: How much time did it take to plan the show?

A: With everything? I guess about 3 months.

K: When you do the next show what will you do different or what have you learned?

A: I'm not going to pay for an emcee. I think I'll emcee it and see how that goes or get a friend to emcee. I'm definitely going to make sure that the point of what the show is about and what MP is doing is clearly stated at the beginning of the show. I'm going to put up publicity at least two weeks in advance of the show. I want to put together a program and sell ad space in the program to help pay for the catering we'll provide this time for participants. I want to get fliers out to all of the troupes. I also want to make sure there is no confusion about the price of the show.

K: Sounds like you thought about it. Have you thought about what you want to do after college?

A: I'll work on MP for a year, then attend law school at Georgia State. Hopefully, I plan on being a sports and entertainment lawyer.

We wanted to know exactly went into planning the designs for the Mplications fashion show. So IOV took out time to talk to Summer Hutchins, designer for Yceshaut.

Kenji: Your designs looked really good that night. They were a big hit with a lot of people.

Summer: Thank you!

Kenji: You're welcome. When designing your fashions, do you view them as a form of visual arts?

Summer: Not really. If they are perceived that way then that's good, but I just view more of a way to express my creativity and my style.

Kenji: What goals are you trying to reach when designing and creating your fashions?

Summer: My main goal is to be a fashion designer for stars. I basically want to eventually have my own clothing line and store.

Kenji: Naturally when designing the clothes, you have a specific way you want them portrayed. How big a role does music play in the way you want your designs portrayed?

Summer: The music should definitely add to the effect of the clothing. Like if I design a sexy outfit, then I want sexy music to make the outfit look even more sexy! Most of my designs are fun, so I always like fun music to add to them.

Kenji: At the Mplications fashion show, did the music add to or take away from the way you wanted to portray your designs?

Summer: All of the music added to the designs. I picked all the songs for my models to walk to. So if they had on a dress, then I had them walk to a slow song. If they had on a tight skirt or some shorts, then I had them walk to a rap/hip-hop song, like Benzino's "Booty."

Kenji: Do you try to give any advice to your models as to how you want them to walk, dance, or anything else that might add to your fashions?

Summer: Well, I don't know much about walking, a friend of mine helped them with that. I did, however, tell them to look sexy in the outfits and to make sure that they were comfortable.

Kenji: Did the atmosphere of the club, like the lighting, runway, audience, etc., add to or take away from the way you wanted people to see your designs?

Summer: Not really. The only thing that might've helped would have been more light so that the outfits could have been seen more.

Kenji: Is there anything that you might have done to change the night?

Summer: No, everything was fine and went well.

MORE INTERVIEWS ON PAGE 13

Now, IOV gives some personal and critical views of the event:

Kaay Harrison

The Mplications fashion show was very interesting and full of people and several fashion designs; however, the fact that the dj continuously played Jay-Z made the musical aspect of the night redundant. For example, when some of models from Yceshaut wore jerseys, music should have been played that would have gotten the crowd more into the designs. Perhaps if more of a variety of music had been played, the crowd would have been more interested in the show.

Another aspect of the show that I disliked was the fact that a number of people in the audience were not looking at the clothes but instead were looking at the girls' bodies. The show should have had more male models to take away from the seemingly sexist overtone and should have had more than one overweight female model. In this way, it would not have made the show seem directed towards guys, which would have

better expressed the fashions in a good way as opposed to the negative way that some were portrayed.

Despite the creativity of the designs and the deviation from the normal fashion show atmosphere, the negative aspects of the night make me question the overall theme for the show. Was it intended only to entertain the male audience? Were they endorsing the clothes or the female models? What was the overall message behind the show? Maybe in the future, Movement Productions will take the whole population into consideration instead of just part of it when doing a fashion show.

Rosa Brigman

The nice, colorful lighting flickering across the room added an extra vibe to the numerous modeling groups and their vibrant clothes. Although the show started a little late and the intermissions were a little lengthy, it gave the waiting crowd the opportunity to dance, talk, and sing until the next modeling group came

out. The loud, boisterous crowd, heavy bass music, and intricate designs that the models wore all made the Mplications fashion show worthwhile.

Despite Movement Productions hard work and effort in putting the show together, at times it seemed a bit rushed as people behind the curtain were running to get on stage or rushing to put on their clothes while in line. Also, although it was creative to have a runway for the models to walk on, it did not seem to be sturdy enough since many times some of the models nearly fell. The emergency intermission to fix the stage took away from the professional flare that the show might have had. Still, being in the club environment around college students and observing the various aspects of the evening outweighed any negativities of the evening.

Lori Webster

The stage was lit and the scene was dim. Scattered around the stage, the

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The REEL DEAL

By Ronda Taylor

The Reel Deal features two documentary films viewed by IOV. On Saturday, November 9, 2002, *Tobacco Money Feeds My Family* premiered at the Double Take Documentary to a packed audience in Richard White Lecture Hall on Duke University's campus. Two North Carolina filmmakers, Cynthia Hill and Curtis Gaston, for three years recorded the lives of three North Carolinian tobacco farmers, including their families and their communities. The film highlights the legacy of how families have built their lives on the tobacco crop and the unfortunate outcome that lingers around the future of the industry.

The next documentary *The Murder of Emmett Till* aired on the campus of the

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on February 12, 2003. The film is based on the life of a fourteen-year-old boy who was brutally murdered in Alabama after whistling at a white lady. Stanley Nelson, a New York filmmaker has experience in studying African American history. He researches themes and biographical subjects that are not well known by the public in order to educate and enlighten viewers. Some of his other films include the award winning film *The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords*; *Marcus Garvey: Look for Me in the Whirlwind*; and *Puerto Rico: Our Right to Decide*.

Tobacco Money Feeds My Family

By Rosa Brigman

Tobacco Money Feeds My Family featured several North Carolinian farmers. The Black farmers were portrayed as subservient, docile, and happy tobacco workers. White farmers would travel to areas inhabited by minorities, mainly the projects, to solicit their labor. Melvin, one of the black farmers, mentioned that tobacco farming was so demanding that it took him away from everyday life activities, such as practicing religion.

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After viewing Stanley Nelson's film, Rosa Brigman retells the story of the Emmett Till:

Emmett Till was a fourteen-year-old boy who lived in Chicago, Illinois. Upon visiting his family in Mississippi, he was brutally murdered because he told a white lady, "Bye Baby" as he was purchasing items in a convenience store. When Emmett came out of the store, his Black friends from the area knew that trouble was coming. They told Emmett that he should leave immediately before the white lady had him killed. The lady was Carolyn Bryant, the wife of Roy Bryant, the owner of the store. Later that evening, Roy Bryant and his brother-in-law, J.W. Milan, caught Emmett Till, put him in their pick up truck, and drove away with him. With malice in their hearts, the men tied a fan around Emmett's neck with barbed wire, beat him, shot him in the head, and

threw him in the Tallahatchie River. When his body was found, his family had trouble identifying him. His body was greatly distorted from being beaten and from being in the river. Emmett Till was only recognized when they noticed the initial ring on his finger. Emmett's mother, Mamie Bradley, wanted people everywhere to see what had happened to her son. She had an open casket funeral for Emmett that made headlines everywhere.

People everywhere should continue to remember and retell the story of the murder of Emmett Till.



CENTER Stage

Director's Cut

Herman Jones

Theater is an expression of ideas through the physicality of the words from the playwright. It is a reality art form born out of the ideas of storytelling. It gives us, as an audience, a truth about our reality. Actors must have the ability to convey and translate what they read, see, and feel. This understanding must be internalized and then performed so we will grasp the meaning of the play. The production I chose to direct in order to personify my theory of theater was *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder. It is a coming of age love story between two main characters, Emily and George. The central them of the play centers on life and death through the simplicities of small town life. It asks us to "stop and smell the roses" (or heliotropes- a type of fragrant purple flowers). We should enjoy every day of our lives. The small



IOV was lucky enough to be in attendance for the opening night production of Cary Player's Our Town. Herman L. Jones, IOV consultant, directed and co-produced the show.

things are important such as a smile, breakfast, your parents, the moon or your town. It ALL matters. Thornton Wilder, Pulitzer Prize winning playwright, gives us a view of Grover's Corners that has special meaning in the life of "Americana." Things and times are simple. Everybody in the town knows everyone and their business. Just as in any time period, there are complications. Life is full of challenges.



Rosa Brigman asked Herman Jones some personal questions about his role with the Cary Players and his plans for the future:

R: What plays do the Cary Players plan on doing in the future?

H: Our next planned production is *Twelfth Night* or *What You Will* by William Shakespeare. Other productions I would like to direct/produce are *Othello*, *View from the Bridge*, *Hot el Baltimore*, and a fantasy production of *West Side Story*.

R: Is there anyone in particular who inspired you to become a director?

H: Eli Kazan and Woodie King, Jr. because they are extremely knowledgeable of their craft and have accurately and effectively explained the process of directing.

R: If you could produce any play which, would you choose?

H: I would produce *Othello*. I love this Shakespearean play because it is about love, jealousy, revenge, and power. It encompasses many of the obstacles one could face in life.

Brandon Hodges and Andre' Wesson comment on the genre of theater and its place in today's society

I believe theater is still a major part of peoples' lives and its importance has been maintained through the years. I believe theater is just one of the many ways people seek to portray emotion and feeling, and therefore it will continue to remain a source of inspiration and cultural expression. As can be seen in many productions, the live aspect of theater sets it apart from many other genres,



Brandon Hodges

because the feeling and emotion are projected from one soul to another; at the same point in time, just ask Herman.



Andre' Wesson

In a society where television and movies consume the minds of the masses, I would assume that theater has lost an aspect of its importance. That facet of the genre is "stage performance". In spite of this, the influence of theater is still visible in modern society, as can be seen in cinema and television films based on revised and edited versions of plays. I appreciate the fact that theater allows

viewers to capture the essence of the moment. Viewers can actually ride the waves of talent, expressed through emotion and

charisma, that the actors project. Also, whereas television and movie actors can make many mistakes before their films are fully edited and presented to the public, stage performers are forced to have flawless performances in front of audiences prepared to critique their every move. I have a lot of respect and appreciation for the performers and that aspect of theater.

& 5, 6, 7, 8

DANCE

By Kristin

Vibrant

Colors clashing together.

BIG,

TALL, short,

FAT

Spring, SUMMER,

FALL, WINTER

Weather.

F R E E D O M,

Shake, it fast,

Watch ya self

Shake it fast show

ME what you're working with!

MOVEMENT

Swaying

Side to Side

UP AND DOWN

ROUND & ROUND

Loud

Sound

Pounding

Why Dance Means So MUCH!

By Rosa Brigman

The history of African dance was able to grow in terms of style and meaning and is still being communicated today. Whether it is through the reformation or combination of old and new dances, dance continues to flourish as traditional dances still maintain a solid role in contemporary style.

*I dance with
pride, enthusiasm,
appreciation, and
knowledge...*

Dance carries a purpose or more so a form if emotion. Dance is a significant part of my life. I often find myself watching it on television, and I watch it all the time so that I can learn more and more about dance. Then I use various moves and patterns that I've seen and learned, combine them with my own routines, and form a more complex routine.

I love dance because it allows me to express myself and at the same time to have fun. Dance is a big part of my culture as an African-American and as Rosa. That culture is definitely a part of me. Therefore I dance with pride, enthusiasm, appreciation, and the knowledge that I am part of a story that my contemporaries and generations to come will someday retell. Hopefully, they'll retell it through dance.



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