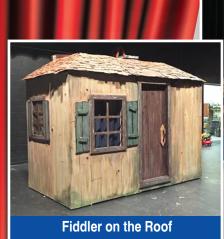


# Theater Arts Career Academy

News about a College Tech Prep Initiative from the Six District Educational Compact









### What's new in Theater Arts Academy?

**Watch for** Mr. Obney on TV

**Theater Arts Career Academy** instructor, David Obney, recently shot commercials for Nike and Timberlake Cabinetry. He continues to audition for a wide range of voiceover, commercial

acting and print work and often shares his industry-insider knowledge with his students.

#### Set design part of experience

In the past two years, The Theater Arts Career Academy Level I and Level II students worked with instructors Keith Bee and David Obney on several sets at Tallmadge High School. Full-scale productions of *Fiddler on the Roof*, Into the Woods, Midsummer/Jersey and 1984 featured sets designed and built by Theater Arts Career Academy students.

According to the instructors, this hands-on experience in set design, construction and scenic artwork has helped propel several completers into theater arts majors at Kent State University.



#### Six District Educational Compact

Cuyahoga Falls • Hudson • Kent • Stow-Munroe Falls • Tallmadge • Woodridge

Mary Jane Stanchina, Executive Director 33 Milford Road, Suite 1, Hudson, Ohio 44236 Phone: 330-655-2247 • www.sixdistrict.com

### Success stories from Theater Arts

#### On the national tour of A Christmas Carol

Theater Arts Career Academy completer **Gregory Grimes**, Tallmadge, is currently employed as an actor on the national tour of *A Christmas Carol*. This is Gregory's fourth consecutive professional acting contract since graduating as a Theater Arts major from Bowling Green State University last year.



#### Well prepared for KSU Theater classes

Theater Arts Career Academy completers **Baleigh Lynn**, Cuyahoga Falls; **Kenzie Bogusch**, Cuyahoga Falls; **Christian Perkowski**, Tallmadge; and **Haylee Trusso**, Roosevelt, are currently enrolled as theater arts majors at Kent State University. They report that their experiences in the Theater Academy prepared them well for the skills needed in the scene shop, on stage and in class at KSU.

Kenzie was featured in four performances in KSU's Freshman Showcase this past semester, and Haylee is an employed scene shop technician.

# Working as a professional makeup artist

Theater Arts Career Academy completer **Kaity Kobbs**, Cuyahoga Falls, is currently enrolled at Bowling Green State University, majoring in event planning, with a minor in theater. She is also working as a professional makeup artist, employed by Cedar Fair, LLC.

#### **Honing their performance skills**

Theater Arts Career Academy students honed their performance skills last year by participating in a stage combat workshop, monologue battle, poetry slam, lip sync contest, and "TACA Idol" – a singing competition. In addition, the classes composed short scenes, choreographed stage combat, and built and painted set pieces and props.

#### **Bringing a story to life**

Theater Arts Career Academy Level I and Level II students hosted Wandering Aesthetics' founder and actor, **Kyle Jozsa**, for a storytelling workshop. Students spent two days learning to craft an original story based on a folktale. They learned to effectively bring their stories to life and performed for the class.

#### **Inside look at KSU's musical theater**

Last spring, Theater Academy students enjoyed a field trip to Kent State University, where they saw the musical, *Thoroughly Modern Millie.* As part of the experience, class members spoke with KSU professors and toured the theater and production facilities.

## **Upcoming worksite visits and special guest speakers**

During this year, Theater Arts Career Academy students will be seeing shows at Playhouse Square and Kent State University. In addition, they will be hosting several guest experts, including Production Designer Inda Blatch-Geib, Costumer Irene Mack-Shaffer, IATSE Stagehand Kendra Strickland, Technical Director Kirsten Williams, and director/vocal coach/dialect coach/professional actor Aubrey Caldwell.

Workshops planned for the school year include commercial television and film audition technique, musical audition technique, stage combat, storytelling, slam poetry, intelligent lighting, scenic painting, effects makeup, how to emcee an event and others.



Tallmadge Theater Arts Career Academy students sharpen their skills at dress rehearsal for "Midsummer/Jersey."



Theater Arts Career Academy students from Hudson and Tallmadge rehearse for "Midsummer/Jersey."