

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



"Jazz Paws" by Karl Arntzen

Photo by Amanda Kellermann

## A walk on the sunny side

Karl Arntzen's celebration of color and pop culture

By Molly Hess  
A&E Editor

A sense of nostalgia hits the viewer when they stare at the familiar face of Batman in Karl Arntzen's Wings Gallery exhibition. Entitled "Progress in Works," Arntzen's second show picks up where the last one left off. "I was always drawn to realism," said Arntzen, "I was doing paintings of traditional paintings, but with humorous outfits and really bright, strong colors – like the kind of costumes people make themselves for conventions. I wanted to do something that was different and fun."

Inspired by comic book

artists such as DC Comic's Alex Ross, Arntzen's work was as influenced by media and popular culture as the paintings the "art moms" brought in and showed to his third grade class. "I was extremely influenced by the toys and TV."

Arntzen began as a student in the stricter discipline of ad design, but was always drawn to his sketching and color. Under the encouragement of his teacher Anita Dickson, he began taking Jennifer Hereth's introductory painting classes and has taken two to three every semester since. "I really had to consciously move away from the

costumed superhero thing, and the hard-lined style of drawing. But you could look at the person sitting at the next desk and be inspired. When I started doing it from there, I thought, 'hey, this isn't as impossible as I thought!'"

Arntzen hopes above all that the gallery visitors will be entertained by what they see: a culmination of work spanning over a year and a half. "I set it up so even if the gallery's closed, you can still look at it from behind the glass. The audience is really the people who walk past everyday, whether they're going to the bookstore or cafeteria. Something positive, see 'story' page 11

## Choral director wins award

By Molly Hess  
A&E Editor

Lee Kesselman, choral director and professor, was presented with a 2009-2010 ASCAPPLUS award, recognizing writing members for achievement in the early and middle stages of their careers. The American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, or ASCAP, is the largest and most respected U.S. performing rights organization with over 360,000 members.

Kesselman has been a member of the organization, going strong for over 20 years now. "I talked to many composers whom I respect and admire," said Kesselman, "and a lot of them recommended ASCAP. There are so many different genres of musicians, composers, and writers, it was one of the things I found wonderful about ASCAP."

The awards are judged over by a panel of accredited musical professionals. Ranging from composers and conductors to music journalists and critics. "The panel serves at the discretion of the board of directors," said Ken Cicerale, director of awards. "None of them are members of the ASCAP, so they may make independent judgments without ASCAP choosing favorites." ASCAP looks at the prestige value of the

artists, such as where they perform and their previous body of work.

Receiving his seventeenth ASCAP award in a row, Kesselman also attributes part of his success to the fact that he never stops writing and creating. Continually and steadily working, whether it is his own work or one of many commissions, ASCAP recognizes him as a very active and functioning artist.

"My life in music has always been a great number of activities: teaching, composing, conducting, and performing. I love teaching and in the great tradition of the classic composers, there is no separation between these activities. I came to COD in 1981 and I thoroughly enjoy teaching here."

Currently, Kesselman is hard at work on several projects, a children's choir project in California and two operas to name a few.

As far as musical inspiration and admiration goes, Kesselman's taste spans across the board. "It's pretty hard to list them all. The classics like Bach and Beethoven to groups like the Beatles. I find that a lot of my students are surprised to find that I listen to Radiohead! It's just like when you're a writer, you have to read voraciously and enjoy it, not just stick to a narrow subject."

# The Divine Circle

Kevin Locke Native American Dance Ensemble's message of unity

By Molly Hess  
A&E Editor

"The Drum is Thunder, The Flute is the Wind," and the Kevin Locke Native American Dance Ensemble is the intermediary that brings the elements of nature into music and dance with a vivid performance. Choreographed by NAMMY-winning actress and musician Thirza Defoe, the dance, described as "Native American ballet," illustrates a young woman torn between the contemporary world and the world of her traditional roots.

Kevin Locke, who portrays the story's grandfather role, explains that the overall message is all about the inner changes we encounter in our lives. "The theme is about adapting to acculturation in our lives. The protagonist is faced with a dilemma about

how to accommodate to change. It's a universal thing that dominates society, the force of change." It is with this theme that the ensemble especially attempts to connect with students and young people. "No babyboomers allowed," joked Locke.

The second part of the show is referred to as "The Hoop of Life," featuring a vibrant and deeply spiritual dance that represents "the oneness of the earth and humanity." "The hoop is a ubiquitous and all-pervasive symbol," explained Locke. "Research has found that it is an archetype in all cultures." An overall image of harmony, balance, and peace is created through the hypnotic movement of the dance. "It represents the perfection in nature," explained Locke, "all good things."

Beyond the student audience, Kevin Locke has trav-



Photo courtesy of McAninch Arts Center web site

eled to over 80 countries in over 30 years of individual touring and has reached people of all different backgrounds. "Some people respond to audio, some the visual, some the kinesthetic. Others respond on an emo-

tional level, others an intellectual level. We just try to reach all people of the world and bring them together through the unity of dance and music." Of Lakota and Anishibane heritage, Locke considers himself not so affiliated

with a particular group, but as a member of the global culture at large. "I see myself as a citizen of the world."

The ensemble will visit the McAninch Arts Center Nov. 8. For more information call the box office at (630) 942-4000.

**‘sunny side’ from page 10** lighthearted, and just fun to look at.”

Arntzen feels an artist’s self-belief is vilified by exhibiting works, cementing further that this is what they want to do. Seeing work hung energizes him, dispelling the “tortured artist” stereotype. “I’m not dark, I don’t suffer for my art! I don’t have to be in a bad mood to paint, I really enjoy it!” As far as future aspirations go, Arntzen hopes to work towards a creative writing class and someday make a comic of his own.

## smART dates

**TODAY**  
SRC 1750

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Oasis Lounge Halloween Party**  
“Dress to impress!” Oasis Entertainment Series presents the annual Halloween party, complete with costumes and pumpkin carving contests. Prizes will be awarded to the best costume and the best carved pumpkin. Tools will be provided for the carving contest. Everyone is invited to come enjoy an assortment of snacks and spooky atmospheric music!

**Today - Nov. 28**  
**Gahlberg Gallery**  
“On Paper”

“On Paper” does away with the conceived notion that paper plays a secondary or complimentary role to the painting or work of art that occupies it. Featuring Felix Malnig, Robyn O’ Neil, Melissa Oreskey, and Clair Sherman.

**Today - Nov. 1**  
**McAninch Arts Center**  
**Studio Theater**  
**Thurs. - Sat. 8 p.m. & Sun. 2 p.m.**  
“Dracula”

Directed by Amelia Barrett, the College Theater production retells the Hamilton Deane and John L. Balderston stage adaption of the classic Bram Stoker tale of Count Dracula. Lucy Seward falls prey to a strange illness and the mysterious Count Dracula may be the cause!  
**TICKETS: \$10 adult / \$9 senior & youth**

**Nov. 1**  
**McAninch Arts Center**  
**Mainstage**  
**7 p.m.**  
**Jigu! Thunder Drums of China**  
“To beat or touch the drum” is the literal translation of this drumming troupe hailing from the Shanxi province of China. Melding together traditional aspects of Peking Opera with modern stage effects, Jigu! creates a powerful performance that you can feel inside your body!  
**TICKETS: \$44 adult / \$42 senior / \$34 youth**

**Nov. 4**  
**SRC 2800**  
**Noon - 1 p.m.**  
**Frederic Winters**  
Combining the arts of comedy and hypnotism, be sure to catch the most popular college hypnotists in the country. Arrive early as seats fill up fast!

## Starving Artist



**Jessica Impellizzeri: Drumming**

*How Would You Describe Your Art?*

I’d say drumming is pretty free-spirited. You can choose to follow instruction or do your own thing.

*What Do You Love About Your Art?*

The fact that it’s free-spirited. I started taking piano, but it was too structured. With drumming, if it sounds good, you can do whatever you want.

*Artists You Admire?*

I like bands with girl drummers a lot,

like Barlow Girl and Skillet.

*What Other Hobbies Do You Enjoy?*

Either writing or finding new music.

*What Do You Hate About Your Art?*

It’s extremely time consuming. I often do schoolwork along with it, and sometimes my work suffers.

*Where Do You Find Inspiration?*

Multiple places, like looking at your favorite bands.

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