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Kenyon on the Big Screen

Kenyon alum Josh Radnor ’96 returns to film Liberal Arts.

AUGUST STEIGMEYER

Kenyon may have the world’s most beautiful campus, but the film industry has never before trekked to Gambier to capture it. This summer, Kenyon alumnus Josh Radnor ’96 returned to Gambier to shoot his latest film, Liberal Arts.

Liberal Arts is the story of 35-year-old Jesse (Radnor) who returns to his college to speak at a retirement event for his former English professor Peter Hoberg (Richard Jenkins, Six Feet Under, Burn After Reading, Let Me In, The Visitor). Once on campus, Jesse forms an “almost romance,” according to Radnor, with 19-year-old student Zibby (Elizabeth Olsen, younger sister of Mary-Kate and Ashley).

“When they talk it seems like they have more in common than less … especially as it relates to their experience with college.” Radnor said. “[Olsen] is a really major talent, and I was lucky enough to get her at a really particular moment at the beginning of her career, because I think she’s going to have a great career.”

Radnor himself is the star of the television show How I Met Your Mother. He made his first foray into the directing field with 2010’s Happilyevermore—please, which took home the “Audience Award” at the Sundance Film Festival.

Filming in Gambier

The crew began filming at Kenyon on June 1 and wrapped production on June 28. Apart from a few scenes filmed in Columbus, Ohio and New York City, Kenyon was the primary shooting location.

Radnor cast fellow Kenyon graduates Allison Janney ’82 (The West Wing, The Help, June) to play the part of Professor Judith West Wing. Radnor directed his 96 students to work in various campus offices. When those resources were exhausted, he reached beyond Kenyon to places like The Ohio State University.

“We made a lot of phone calls and sent a lot of emails and ending up meeting a ton of awesome people from around Ohio who wanted to be involved,” Arbery said. “The news spread like wildfire, and by the end, I was having to turn a lot of people down.”

Most of the extras’ duties involved walking in the background during outdoors scenes on Middle Path or around Kenyon buildings. During the party scenes in Old Kenyon and lunch scenes in Peirce Hall, extras had to have fake, completely silent conversations while the main actors recited their scripted lines.

The assistant directors encouraged the students to mouth the word “watermelon” to make it appear as if they were talking. The actual background sounds are added during post-production.

“Each scene, I’d do between five and ten takes,” Reilly Brock ’13 said. “I was in maybe three

IN THIS ISSUE

Food Cart Offers New Late-Night Dining

ERIN MERSHON

In a college town with only a handful of restaurants and a single dining hall, late-night food options have never been plentiful. But thanks to a new business founded and managed by Jordan Rhyne ’13 and Reilly Brock ’12, students can now order quesadillas, tacos and sandwiches from 10:30 p.m. until 3:00 a.m. from their Last Call Food Cart.

Brook and Rhyne plan to set up their cart wherever demand is highest — most often, they will be located outside the largest party of the night. For now, they will be open only one night each weekend, though they are considering expanding their hours later this semester.

Brook, a sociology major with an avid interest in food, is the cart’s master chef. A San Francisco Bay Area native and a big fan of Mexican food, he has put together a menu of slow-cooked beef and refried beans in tacos or quesadillas. There’s even a sandwich called “the Nuge,” which was named with the permission of Kenyon’s president, S. Georgia Nugent.

“Once I started cooking, that’s what I wanted to cook,” Brook said. “I knew it was simple but also nuanced and really bright, fresh flavors. That’s what I love in food: non-predetermination, down to earth, really satisfying, really well-crafted food. Mexican food embodies that for me.”

Rhyne runs the register while the cart is open. Items are all under $10, and credit cards are accepted.

Both students prep vegetables and food before each shift. For a 10:30 p.m. opening, they start working at 3:00 p.m. They stop serving at 3:00 a.m. or when food runs out; clean up takes another three hours.

Last weekend, the pair set up Last Call outside Old Kenyon. They were met with such enthusiasm that they decided to expand their territory.

“We had kids tell us they’re going to spend all of their summer job money on the food cart,” Rhyne said. “That’s one of the things that really keeps us going. When you hear people are getting excited about the cart and the food, that’s really encouraging.”

Brook agreed. “There were a lot of people who were like, ‘This is the best thing ever,’ and obviously, we’re pretty prone to hyperbole at this school,” he said. “But to have someone say that, even if they were intoxicated or exaggerating, that’s a pretty fun thing to hear about your business.”

Rhyne hatched the idea for the cart in the summer of 2010 and contacted Brook, the manager of the Kenyon Food Co-Op. They emailed occasionally about their plans until late in the spring semester, when they decided finally to apply for a grant from the Business Plan Competition run by Innovation Greenhouse and the Burton D. Morgan Foundation.

In two weeks, they put together a 20-page business proposal outlining everything from their expenditures for a cart to the amount of refried beans that would top a taco. Minutes before the deadline, the two submitted their plan. Following a business pitch, they won the first-place grant.

“What really sold it was the simplicity of the idea — it was simple but well thought-out,” Brook said. “We weren’t stretching, we weren’t trying to reinvent the wheel and we weren’t trying to do anything too crazy. It was solid — identify the need, identify the market, articulate how you can fill the market.”

The two spent their summer preparing the business for its debut this fall — perfecting recipes, getting permits and purchasing supplies and equipment. About three hours each day went toward the food cart.

They purchased a reinforced cart with storage space and steam trays on Craigslist for about $2,200. They also purchased a 36-inch steel griddle, several folding tables and a canopy to cover their operation. Between their equipment and application and permit fees, the two have already spent more than the $5,000 initial grant they received.

They met with the Gambier Zoning Commission this summer to see Last Call, page 3
K-Bikes offers a new rental service on Kenyon's campus.

K-Bikes offers a new rental service on Kenyon’s campus.

Rental bikes are now available at the Kenyon College Bookstore through K-Bikes, a relatively new program that strives to make bicycles available to all students. Each rental lasts 24 hours and includes a bike, a helmet and a lock. The cost is $20 for non-students, while Kenyon students receive a discounted rate of $10. Part-Time Associate Director of Admissions Bob Brown created K-Bikes three years ago as a source of bicycles for international students. “They're coming from the greatest distance and can’t bring bikes or often don’t have the funding,” he said. “Through K-Bikes, international students have the option to rent bikes at no cost for semester at a time.”

The program grew, so did the need for additional bicycles, which led Brown to a partnership with Campus Safety.

At the end of each year, any abandoned bikes will be picked up, and then brought to the College community after the Sunday following graduation, according to Brown. Students receive “ample notification of the end of each year, any abandoned bikes will be picked up, and then brought to the College property for sale at the Gambier Community Center on Saturday, Sept. 3 at 2:00 p.m. All volunteers will receive credit for 81.

Some rummage sale items are donations from Kenyon professors earn national recognition.

The Princeton Review recently named Kenyon one of 10 colleges with the best professors in the country. Kenyon ranks fifth on the list, with Wellesley College taking the top ranking.

These results were based on a survey of 122,000 students at 375 colleges across the country and are included in The Princeton Review’s latest college guidebook, The Best 376 Colleges: 2012 Edition.

The Studio Art Building is “right on track,” according to Lepley, who said they are still hoping to have it closed in winter so interior work can continue. Completion is set for July 2012.

Campus Construction Updates

North Campus Apartments Construction is complete on one of North Campus Apartments houses. Two more houses are on schedule for completion by the second semester of this year. An additional three will be ready by the next fiscal year. A total of nine buildings will be complete by the fall of 2012.

The Board of Trustees will be voting at its meeting in October to approve an additional 12 buildings in the North Campus Apartments project.

Sidewalks

The guide forms for the sidewalks around Bailey House were completed Wednesday, Aug. 31. The company responsible for pouring the concrete is booked for the rest of the week. Currently, the concrete will not be poured until next week. The College cannot hire another concrete company because they have pre-ordered a specially colored concrete for these sidewalks with the intention of matching the pre-existing sidewalks that they are connecting. North campus sidewalks will not be colored because of the cost involved, according to Lepley.

The College will also build a temporary blacktop walkway to the North Campus Apartment at Bennett Lane so that students will not have to walk through a construction area.

Graham Gund Gallery

The freight elevator in the Graham Gund Gallery passed inspection on Monday, Aug. 29 and is operating. This elevator is not open to the public but will instead be used by employees to transport art pieces to the gallery.

Crews are in the process of putting up lighting fixtures in the parking lot.

Studio Art Building

The Studio Art Building is “right on track,” according to Lepley, who said they are still hoping to have it closed in winter so interior work can continue. Completion is set for July 2012.

Village Record

Aug. 22, 3:20 p.m. — Medical: injured employee at Bailey House. Squad contacted and employee transported to Knox Community Hospital.

Aug. 23, 11:34 p.m. — Noise complaint at Taft D Block. Officers responded.

Aug. 23, 3:26 a.m. — Noise complaint in Lewis Hall. Officers responded.

Aug. 24, 1:26 a.m. — Medical: intoxicated student in Gambier Grill. Squad contacted and student transported to Knox Community Hospital.

Aug. 24, 12:40 p.m. — Open container on public property. Citation issued by Campus Safety for open container.


Aug. 26, 2:58 p.m. — Medical: injured non-student in Kenyon College Bookstore. Injuries assessed and treated by Safety officers.

Aug. 26, 8:17 p.m. — Wellness check in Math. Safety officers completed request.

Aug. 26, 5:00 p.m. — Underage possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. Injurious to the student.

Aug. 27, 11:16 a.m. — Noise complaint in Old Kenyon Residence Hall. Intoxicated student in residence hall. Citation issued by Campus Safety for open container.

Aug. 27, 12:20 a.m. — Intoxicated student in Substance Abuse Services. Substance abuse services assessed student. Student was okay.

Aug. 27, 22:28 a.m. — Intoxicated student in Lewis Hall. Student requested wellness check on student.

Aug. 27, 3:13 a.m. — 911 hang-up from E. Woodside Dr. Call received and checked by county. Resident was okay.

Aug. 27, 11:30 p.m. — Wellness check in Mather Residence Hall. Safety officers completed requested wellness check on student.

Aug. 27, 11:50 p.m. — Intoxicated student in Leonard Residence Hall. Intoxicated student transported by Safety officers.

Aug. 27, 12:19 a.m. — Intoxicated student in Ascension. Squad contacted and student transported to Knox Community Hospital.

Aug. 28, 12:49 a.m. — Intoxicated student in McBride Residence Hall. Intoxicated student transported by Safety officers.

Aug. 28, 11:16 a.m. — Intoxicated student in Old Kenyon Residence Hall. Intoxicated student transported by Safety officers.

Aug. 28, 2:09 a.m. — Open container. Citation issued by Safety officer.

Aug. 28, 2:09 a.m. — Underage consumption, drug possession. Student cited for underage drinking and possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Aug. 28, 2:09 a.m. — Underage possession of alcohol. Citation issued by Safety officer.

Aug. 28, 5:48 p.m. — Medical: injured student in Old Kenyon. Squad contacted and transported student to Knox Community Hospital.

Aug. 28, 10:30 p.m. — Medical: ill student in Storer Hall. Student treated by Safety officers.

Aug. 29, 7:45 a.m. — Vehicular accident on Wiggins St. Bike/vehicle accident: no injuries, minor property damage reported.

Aug. 30, 7:01 a.m. — Medical: injured student in bike accident at corner of Brooklyn & Gaskin Ave. Injuries assessed and treated by Safety officers.
obtain permits to sell in downtown Gambier. They also met with local law enforcement to inquire about the College’s chief business officer, who gave them permission to sell food on Kenyon’s campus.

The school itself, whenever we’ve had to deal with bureaucracy, has been really generous with their time,” Rhyme said. “They’ve helped us a lot.”

The College has advance no additional permits, but according to Troutman, hiring changes are not unusual, according to the College’s chief business officer, who gave them permission to sell food on Kenyon’s campus.

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A Call for All-Stu Civility

Since its inception, All-Stu has become a cornerstone of Kenyon College, providing a venue for debate and a surprisingly powerful instigator for change. Current juniors and seniors will recall 2010's Nick Griffin uproar and the passionate, often venomous attacks that ultimately resulted in the event's cancellation.

As in any allstuwar, some combatants put forth well-thought-out arguments while others mindlessly ranted or made vicious personal attacks. We at the Collegian have no desire to reignite the Griffin debate.

We commend allstus as a useful and entertaining forum, but we call for civility in the controversial discussions that will arise this year.

Calm, rational people contribute constructive opinions that the community will take far more seriously than the typical stream of consciousness venting.

Attacking specific people or groups with vague criticisms like “you suck” or “no one really cares about you” will not advance the dialogue or effect change.

They instead earn students sarcastic titles such as “allstusaurus” or the more universal “troll” label. In real life, most of these people would never insult someone to his face, but they feel safe and anonymous behind their Internet personas.

All Kenyon students should realize that their allstus personas will follow them around campus.

Allstus are not the only community members with access to allstus — faculty, staff and even President Nugent read the forums. Your online reputation may precede you in class, whatever you want it to or not.

Still, we do not discourage students from posting or replying to allstus addressing divisive issues.

Allstus is an extra-sentinel asset and we should expand our use of the forum for exchanging ideas with students and faculty alike.

Students should embrace the power of allstus, allowing you to contribute to discussion at course level.

But the most productive allstus are considerate, not cruel. They prompt others to respond.

Allstus talk to and about real people, fellow members of the Kenyon community. For their sake and yours, be civil and intelligent in your arguments.
Allison Janney Discusses Her Return to Kenyon

Allison Janney '82, star of television's 'The West Wing', plays Prof. Judith Fairfield in INTERVIEWS WITH Allison Janney Discusses Her Return to Kenyon something else with you" and I wanted me to do it. We talked with www.kenyoncollegian.com

The interview has been edited for clarity and space. The full interview is available online at www.kenyoncollegian.com.

Did the story or Kenyon filming plans come first? Kind of neither. I went back last spring to show my first film Happynessunknownroleplay and while I was there, being there [just inspired me]. I mentioned these things to my producer, Jesse Hara and he said "that's a great movie" and immediately a light bulb went off and I saw this movie. I went to Spain for three weeks by myself last spring and just travelled around and I started writing the screenplay while I was there. You never know how fast these things are going to move: from script to screen Happynessunknownroleplay took about 4 or 5 years. When something is working, the writing is a little more effortless and this was one of those occasions. The Liberal Art script very fast. In about 3 or 4 months I had a first draft and then things just moved pretty fast in terms of getting financing for it.

The more I thought about it, the more I thought that I wanted to do a movie for Kenyon. I wrote scenes in the chapel, in the theater, in Middle Ground, in the Bookstore. Once we were actually on the campus and lo- cation scouting, everyone kept saying, "Wow, this is the easiest location shoot we've ever done," and I'm like "Yeah, because I

Allison Janney said that the screenplay hints that your character Jesse returns to his alma mater and understands this professor. Well it's the same size the film is working, the writing is a little more effortless and this was one of those occasions — I wrote it, the more I thought that I

Richard Jenkins Applies His Oscar-nominated Talent

Oscar-nominated actor Richard Jenkins, star of The Visitor, plays a retiring college professor in Radnor's film. He spoke with the Collegian about growing up in the Mid- west, college theatre and swimming at the KAC.

This interview has been edited for clarity and space. The full interview is available online at www.kenyoncollegian.com.

How did you get involved with Liberal Arts? I really liked the script a lot, loved the part, really wanted to do it and luckily [Radnor] wanted me to do it. We talked about it after Happynessunknownroleplay he said "I want to do something else with you," and I said "I'd love to," so that's how this came about.

What about the role interested you? Well, a lot of things. There's a wonderful line in the movie where I say, "in my head I'm still 19" and I think most people feel that way. It was an interesting predicament that I felt close to and understood. This professor is retiring and decides that, after he's announced his retirement, he'd like to take it back because he's afraid to change his life. And the other thing is, I'm a Midwesterner, I went to Illinois-Wesleyan University, which is a small school about home for some people, it really stays with you your whole life. I think he loved what he did — I know he did, because I played him. Did the Bolton bring back memories of your own alma-mater? Well it's the same size the film is working, the writing is a little more effortless and this was one of those occasions — I wrote it, the more I thought that I

There is something about being there during the summer and walking around the campus while there was nobody there. I didn't feel as self conscious as I would with all the students there. I got to feel like it was mine again and I walked around and tried to think of it or how it was at a student there. I couldn't remember what my freshman dorm was — I could remember where it was but I couldn't remember what it was called. I found my way to it. It was amazing to me.

A lot of things. It's just a beautiful bucolic [campus]. When I walked up there I knew immediately where it was.

Has a lot changed since you were here? You get that sense? The truth is, I don't know — that's the truth. But, it can be very frustrating, and it can be very challenging, and it's sup- posed to be, I think. It's a won- derful profession, that's why a lot of people want to do it. But if you're meant to do it, there's room for everybody. So if it's really your life, and you know that something will happen. I know that sounds vague and maybe corny, but it's true.

What did you see here that was distinctly Kenyon? What will you always remember from this campus? The campus is just beautiful, in a Midwestern small school way. There's a sophistication to the campus, to the buildings, to the way it's laid out. I have to say — when you're an actor and you're not shooting, you have time alone and I rode a bike on that bike path constantly. I just — that is so beautiful and I'm from Illinois and it reminded me of home. It just was a warm summer day.

I also love the pool. I was a swimmer in high school and college. It was just extraordinary and I used that too.
The Making of...

Liberal Arts

Josh Radnor returns to Kenyon to film his second movie, *Liberal Arts*. The film takes a nostalgic look at days gone by on a college campus.

From page 1

or four scenes, so sometimes I’d be the guy behind Josh Radnor with a bike and sometimes I’d be crossing the street in the very far corner of the frame.”

“The most difficult thing about my job was realizing that being an extra isn’t very fun,” Arbery said. “It mostly entails waiting around for hours, often in the sun, for a few minutes of endlessly repeated walking, often in deep background.”

The time commitment required of extras varied based on the type of scene. One of the longest was the Old Kenyon party scene, filmed June 17. Background actors had to stand by from 4:00 p.m. until around 2:00 a.m. and could not leave without interfering with the film’s continuity. A second party scene was shot from 2:00 a.m. until 4:30 a.m., and the Assistant Directors (ADs) asked for volunteers to stay around for this extra shoot.

“It was very, very hard for me to keep my extras happy sometimes,” Arbery said. “They tended to have this look on their face which said ‘Is it time for us now?’ and it would cause me a lot of pain to say ‘No … when they’re ready for us, they’ll let us know.’”

“Since I was crew, I mostly got to know the crew,” Arbery said. “Josh was a very busy man on set,” he said. “Being a writer-actor-producer-director is no small feat, and he would frequently say that he was doing too much. But he always said it like he had it under control, and he did … From what I can tell, the crew loved working with him, and he was so great to all Kenyon kids. He really made sure we had a great experience.”

Zac Efron

“I heard rumors that Zac Efron was coming on the first day I started working, which was about a week and a half before shooting,” Arbery said.

“I was not allowed to mention him at all. We didn’t want extras coming just because Zac Efron was in it. We didn’t want them to tell their friends and bring cameras and spoil the quiet, concentrated set.”

Efron’s “Nat” is a pivotal character in the movie, according to Radnor. The High School Musical star was on campus from June 17-18 and completed all his scenes in that time. Most Kenyon students (and visiting OSU students) saw Efron during the filming of the party scene in the DKE lounge in the Old Kenyon basement, which required many extras.

“One night I had to get 80 extras for an Old Kenyon party scene, and when the Second Assistant Director came in and told them that Zac Efron was coming, there was a collective gasp and then a flurry of whispers,” Arbery said.

“[Efron] was walking by, getting ready to do another take, and he winked right at me,” Kaitlin Graff ’12 said. “I’ve been working on my blinking ever since so the next time I see him I’ll be ready.”

Radnor said he and Efron became friends at the Maui Film Festival last year. “He was there and *Happythankyoumoreplease* was playing there and we hung out,” Radnor said. “We just really enjoyed talking to each other and stayed in touch. I said I had this role and Jesse [Haraz], my producer, and I talked about it. [We] decided that [Efron] would be great in the role, and he was. We whisked him in under cover of darkness and got him out before a lot of people knew he was there.”

They may have whisked him out of Gambier a little too quickly, however. When the crew needed different angles of the shots of Efron, they called in Arbery to act as his body double nearly a week after the party scene was first filmed.

“We couldn’t finish the entirety of his scene one night,” Arbery said. “We needed to turn the camera around and get the coverage on Josh. I memorized all of Zac’s lines and wore his costume … I don’t know if I’m allowed to tell this story.”

Release Date

Radnor’s previous film debuted at the Sundance Film Festival in January of 2010. Radnor said he does not know if he will follow the same path with *Liberal Arts*. “We’re [deciding] right now, and we’re going to have that discussion soon, so I really don’t know what the plan is for this,” he said. “I imagine it will involve film festivals, but we’re not sure yet. It’s still very early in the process.”

After Sundance, Radnor came to Kenyon to show *Happythankyoumoreplease*, and he said he would like to do that again with *Liberal Arts*. “Again, it’s really early in the process, but certainly I’m going to have to show [*Liberal Arts*] at Kenyon at some point,” he said.
There’s no other place for it. This is where it needs to be filmed.

Josh Radnor
GREENSLADE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Josh Radnor performed in a 1994 Kenyon production of The Importance of Being Earnest.

He asks her this question at one point — she says, "We connect very well" and he says, "I know, but I don't know if that's because you're extraordinary or I'm stunned." I think I know that kind of thing.

How did you cast? Why did these actors fit the roles?

Some of this was just happy accident. I wrote this part, this professor's retiring, I wrote it specifically for Richard Jen-kins and, happily, he agreed to do it.

With Elizabeth, we also have all the same agents, all three of us have the same agent. And I showed [my agent] the first 40-50 pages of the script and then she called be immediately after that and she said, "I have your Zibby. Her name’s Eliza- beth Olsen. I just started work- ing with her and you’re not going to find anyone better." I didn’t totally trust her because I thought, well she’s [Eliza- beth Olsen’s] agent, she’s just being busy. I met a bunch of people and I met Liz and [my agent] said she was right; she was the person for the role. How did you cast Allison Janney?

For that part we had a long list of people that we had been discussing and when her name came up, it sort of leapt off the page. I think that’s who this role is really supposed to go to. I’d met her once before, just very briefly, but I’ve always been such a fan of hers and I love the fact that she had gone to Kenyon and that we’d had all the same professors and performed on the same stages. Again, I was just happy that she wanted to do it and we had so much fun. I adore her and in some ways she has no idea how good she is. I described her like a Stradivarius — any note that comes out of her, any note that you want to play, it’s just gorgeous.

How would you describe your style as a director? From a larger perspective, for me it’s important that everyone has a very special, positive experience in the making of my movie because, why make mov- ies if you’re not going to have a great, transformative time? I don’t think that you have to suf- fer through a horrible experience in order to make a great film. In fact, it works for me in the re- verse — I feel like everyone is encouraged to do their best work and feel safe then that’s going to show up on the screen. I’m the opposite of a dictator on set.

I think for the actors it’s a differ- ent experience to be directed by your scene partner. Allison started laughing during our first day, she was so thrown by the fact that she was in the scene with would stop and start directing her. It’s very efficient because we shoot these movies so fast.

But I think on certain days it can be a little frustrating for people who maybe aren’t used to working [with someone so technical]. Sometimes before we move on I just need some techni- cal beat to be hit. I feel like I’ve been able to develop this thing where I can be both in the scene and be watching the scene at the same time when the other per- son is [acting]. In some ways I’m fully in it, but I’m also thinking about the editing room so I’ve got a lot of different balls in the air when I’m doing this. Some- times I’m more successful at it than others.

If I’ve done one thing right in both these movies it’s that I’ve just surrounded myself with the right people in terms of cast and crew. I’ve worked with the same cinematographer, the same pro- duction designer and the same editor on both my movies and it’s really great to be able to speak shorthand and they know now what to tell me or not to tell me in all works out nicely.

Do you have any good Ken- nyon stories?

I don’t know. None come to mind and some are so odd that weird and depend on you knowing like eight nicknames and four inside jokes and it would be impossible to explain and it certainly wouldn’t trans- late in print. But, my 15-year reunion was while we were pre- pinging the film, which was strange because we had a whole work week and then at the end of the week all my old classmates start- ed coming back on campus. It was amazing to see everyone, but I was just happy that I was there. I was so happy that I got to spend a few months in Gambier.

I have to say that all these people who had never heard of Kenyon College who were on my crew left wearing Kenyon sweatshirts and intending to send their kids their one day. The College continues to work in magic on people.

The KENYON COLLEGIAN  SPECIAL FEATURE  THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

Radnor: Director/Star Returns to His Roots

FAST FACTS

It cost about $86 million to film Liberal Arts.

Radnor and his team worked in rooms in Leonard as dressing rooms while on set.

Most of the crew stayed in New Apartments, but some of the higher up stayed in the Beley Apartments.

The DKE lounge in the movie doesn’t look much like the one we’re familiar with. The crews brought in paintings and new furniture and even changed the color of the walls to spruce up the space.

AVI catered meals for the cast, crew and extras. They were served in Page. Prior to filming, the students who worked on the film received free meals, though extras were not otherwise compensated for their time.

Some of the cast and crew went tubing on the Kosingi twice.

Since the movie was set in April, the extras were asked to dress for cool temperatures — in the middle of June.

Before Zac Efron arrived on campus, all the extras were warned especially that if they were found taking pictures or video, they would be thrown off the set.

Liberal Arts is the first big production to be filmed at Kenyon, though it is not the first film to approach Kenyon about using the campus. Both Footloose’ Society and I.Q. approached Ke- nyon about filming on campus.

More movies are be- ing filmed in Ohio since 2009, when for- mer Gov. Ted Strickland approved a tax credit for films that promise to spend more than $30 million. The film Ides of March, star- ring George Clooney and Ryan Gosling was recently shot on the Mis- sion campus. And The King’s Speech, starring Colin Firth and Geoffrey Rush, was shot in Cleveland.

Samuel L. Jackson was ring Robert Downey Jr., George Clooney and Matt Damon for Ides of March, which filmed on campus.

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Some of the cast and crew went tubing on the Kosingi twice.

Since the movie was set in April, the extras were asked to dress for cool temperatures — in the middle of June.

Before Zac Efron arrived on campus, all the extras were warned especially that if they were found taking pictures or video, they would be thrown off the set.

Liberal Arts is the first big production to be filmed at Kenyon, though it is not the first film to approach Kenyon about using the campus. Both Footloose’ Society and I.Q. approached Ke- nyon about filming on campus.

More movies are be- ing filmed in Ohio since 2009, when for- mer Gov. Ted Strickland approved a tax credit for films that promise to spend more than $30 million. The film Ides of March, star- ring George Clooney and Ryan Gosling was recently shot on the Mis- sion campus. And The King’s Speech, starring Colin Firth and Geoffrey Rush, was shot in Cleveland.

Samuel L. Jackson was ring Robert Downey Jr., George Clooney and Matt Damon for Ides of March, which filmed on campus.

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LILI MARTINEZ

Oman is under construction. From the moment I stepped off the plane in Muscat, Oman’s capital, this fact characterized my impression of the country more than anything else. Large parts of the capital and long stretches of road promise urban development and new residences — in the future. As we drove to the hotel on the first night, skeletons of new hotels and apartment buildings were scattered everywhere I looked.

It took me a few days to figure out why Oman is such a work in progress. Unlike its neighbors in the Gulf, specifically Qatar and Bahrain, Oman has a benevolent sultan, beloved by almost everyone. In the past 40 years, he’s brought Oman, a Kansas-sized country neighboring Saudi Arabia on the Arabian Peninsula, from third-world poverty (without sanitation, roads, schools or electricity) to a country with a thriving tourism industry and the world’s tallest hotel.

I went to Oman this summer on a Critical Languages Scholarship, a program sponsored by the State Department with institutes in Tunisia, Morocco, Oman and Jordan. Those eight weeks were, for me, a whirlwind of souks, classes, trips and a lot of Arabic.

In no particular order, some of what I learned in Oman follows:

Guests are really important—more important than family, in most cases. Unlike in America, guests are not allowed to help set or clear the table for a meal, or pay for anything, ever. If you’re a guest in an Omani household, your hosts will go out of their way to make you comfortable.

Similarly, when you meet an Omani for the first time, you will probably be invited to his or her house immediately. They’re not just eager to meet Americans; it’s a genuine trait of hospitality that they’d offer to any tourist or new acquaintance.

Despite temperatures that regularly hit 120° F and above, I dressed modestly, in long sleeves, loose clothing, long skirts and sometimes a headscarf. As uncomfortable as it was, I just had to get used to it — and I did.

For some reason, Toyota has a flagship dealership in Oman, and everyone drives them there — they’re kind of like luxury cars.

Oman’s workforce is mainly composed of South Asian expatriates: Bangladeshis, Indians, Pakistanis and Indonesians. And most of them shop at LuLu Hypermarket, our weekly shopping center, as well. Fun fact: shopping there without a headscarf means they will stare at you unabashedly.

I’ll miss the 50-cent falafel down the road, the fresh-squeezed fruit juices that are so readily available, and the wonderful teachers — all Omani — who were so pleased that Americans were coming to study their language. And look out for Oman on the world stage soon — it’s coming into its own, slowly but surely. In this time of instability in the Arab world, Oman is a little island of quiet development.

Left: Lili Martinez ’12 poses for a photo in Oman, where she was required to wear conservative clothing in accordance with Islamic culture. Despite the extreme heat of the Arabian Peninsula, Martinez eventually adjusted to the expectations for women’s clothing there.

Below: An ornate door in an Omani home. While traveling, Martinez was surprised by the emphasis Omanis put on hosting guests, be they tourists or citizens. In Oman guest are treated with the utmost respect and generosity. Additionally, most Omanis will immediately invite guests into their homes after meeting them.
“Real World Gambier” Characterizes Party Culture

BEN ROS

“Real World Gambier” returned Aug. 24 for an audience of guileless first years and their CA escorts.

Starting with issues on par with petty high school shenanigans (bad roommate etiquette, peer pressure), the annual series of informationalskits launched into some of the less comfortable topics concerning our Kenyon social scene: substance abuse, various forms of bigotry and rape.

The completely student-run production deviated little from previous years: three interconnected scenes showcased various aspects of Kenyon party culture. The encompassing moral of the production focused largely on keeping channels of communication open throughout the Kenyon community.

Accordingly, campus resources such as Community Advisors, Campus Safety and Sexual Misconduct Advisors were referenced as available outlets for first years in trouble.

“Real World Gambier” deserves a lot of credit for being a completely student-run production put on solely for the purpose of educating wide-eyed first years before their first weekend at Kenyon. As Jamal Jordan ’12, a facilitator of the event who has been involved since his sophomore year, said, “It’s really important to have one event [during orientation week] where students can talk peer to peer … it’s important for people to look out for each other.” Despite the actors being conspicuously aware that the production is available as information rather than entertainment, it was nevertheless well acted and an enjoyable experience.

Second City Delivers a Second-Rate Performance in Rosse

JORDI ALONSO

Rarely do all the seats of Rosse auditorium fill with an eager audience, especially before classes have even started. But on Aug. 23, Second City, the famed Chicago comedy troupe, was back in Gambier for the night.

The group has performed during orientation week for the past few years, but this year’s show definitely deviated from last year’s. For this performance, the group made the majority of their show college-relevant, which lessened its quality. The first half of the night featured skits representing moments in the day of a college student, such as dealing with a new roommate, attending a creative writing class and dealing with homesickness.

In the third skit, for example, a student fathered a toothbrush or a backpack. In ways to stall his final goodbye after setting up his first year’s room. His excuses not to leave became more and more personal, touching on the three almost mythologized subjects of conversation that come to mind when one thinks of college: alcohol, sex and sexual orientation. Though the skits were largely disappointing, many of the group’s jokes characterized the line from typical humor into biting and penetrating humor.

The strongest skits followed intermission, albeit unfortunately after a fair number of people had already given up on the night and left the auditorium. The second half of the show — still marginally connected to the college experience — emphasized Second City’s strong points, namely their improvisational skills. The show looked on the verge of reclaiming itself until two members of the troupe acted out a self-defense class in which members of the audience suggested certain common implements with which one might have to defend oneself, such as a toothbrush or a backpack.

The skit had the feel of an overdone action film, with explosion sound effects every time one of the two “of ficers” mentioned Campus Safety and its focus on defense against “creep with a katana” or “throwing stars.”

The highlight of the night was the Angry Birds musical. Second City turned the popular game into a dramatic fight between the birds and the pigs who stole their eggs. The cast members, with bird fac on their hats, introduced themselves in character and played off the fact that their entire audience had probably played the game many times. The skit culminated in the revelation of a secret romance between the Black Bird and the White Bird, which after, in a desperate attempt to save the Black Bird, the White Bird almost broke its egg.

“I hope sometimes you need to just go with what feels right instead of making it fit a theme,” Robert Angle ‘13 said. “I thought their strongest parts were when they were doing improvisation for us … perhaps because I’m a junior. If I were a freshman looking at it I might like it more because I’d like to know everything I could about college life and I’d be horridly scared.”

Kenyon Film Society

Kenyon Film Society will screen The King’s Speech and The Hurt Locker this Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. respectively in the KAC theater. Both films took the Academy Award for Best Picture.

Friday, Sept. 2nd — The King’s Speech

The King’s Speech is a truly remarkable film, because it manages to delineate both the critic and the average moviegoer alike. It has received tremendous critical acclaim and, of course, won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 2010. At its heart, however, The King’s Speech remains a feel-good film that appeals to the masses, which launched it into box office success — it had the highest per-theater ticket sales of any film last year. Both the critical and mass acclaim are mainly due to the outstanding performances of the lead actors — Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush and Helena Bonham Carter — all of whom were nominated for their performances, with Firth winning the actual award.

Anyone who has seen the film will surely want to see it again, if not for the simple enjoyment of watching Firth repeatedly scream “Bally!” As for anyone who has not seen the film … seriously, folks, it’s really much more interesting than the premise of a king trying to overcome his stutter. It’s an engaging, enjoyable and overall excellent film. It even has Queen Elizabeth II’s recommendation. That’s now praise.

Saturday, Sept. 3rd — The Hurt Locker

In 2009, The Hurt Locker created buzz when it beat out early favorites, Avatar or Inception, to win the Oscar. Also, it picked up Best Director award for Kathryn Bigelow, the first woman ever to win an award. These prestigious awards, however, are not the film’s only accolades. This film was the second best critically reviewed film of the year when it was released, after Up. Roger Ebert especially was a fan of the film, listing it as the second-best film of the decade. The film is considered the best movie portrayal of the Iraq war to date and stars Jeremy Renner (who was Oscar nominated for his performance), Anthony Mackie, Guy Pearce, David Morse, Ralph Fiennes and Evangeline Lilly.

Walk the Moon

AMELIA MCCLURE

Kenyon has its fair share of notable alumni, including Emmy and Academy Award winner Paul Newman ’49, The Help star Allison Janney ’82, Seabiscuit: An American Legend author Laura Hillenbrand ’89 and of course one would be remiss without mentioning Liberal Arts director and star Josh Radnor ’96.

These are only a couple of Kenyon’s claim-to-fame names, however, and Janney and Radnor are not the only stars with massive summer accomplishments. Columbus-based band Walk the Moon, headed by former Chaser and lead singer Nick Petricca ’09, performed on Aug. 23, Second City, the fabled Chicago comedy troupe, the night before their first weekend at Kenyon. As Jamal Jordan ’12, a facilitator of the event who has been involved since his sophomore year, said, “It’s really important to have one event [during orientation week] where students can talk peer to peer … it’s important for people to look out for each other.” Despite the actors being conspicuously aware that the production is available as information rather than entertainment, it was nevertheless well acted and an enjoyable experience.

Look for our interview with Petricca in next week’s issue.
ART FOR OUR SAKE

Clockwise from top right: skylights over the Gallery space, main staircase and two views of the entrance lobby.

After two years of construction, the Gund Gallery will open its doors to the Kenyon community when it hosts its first exhibition in October.

CALEB BISSINGER

Thomas Jefferson spent the last years of his life designing the "Academic Village," a series of buildings bearing Jefferson's architectural stamp at the center of the University of Virginia campus. With the opening of the Graham Gund Gallery, the building's architect, Graham Gund '63, may have cemented his role as Kenyon's Thomas Jef- ferson.

The Gallery, which opened for classes last week, is part of the first phase of the 30-year master plan for Kenyon that Gund's Boston-based firm unveiled in 2004. To date, the Gund Partnership has designed eight buildings at Kenyon including the Athletic Center, the Science Quad and the North Campus Apartments.

Gund, an avid art collector, pledged $11.5 million toward the 31,000-square-foot building. It now houses the art history department, complete with classrooms, offices, and a 132-seat auditorium. Much like Stone Hall and the addition to Prize, both designed by Gund's firm, the Gund Gallery blends sandstone with a soft maple interior complemented by dramatic windows. It stands on something nearly modern, but comfortably so.

Uptown, the building houses a 6,209-square-foot flexible gallery where temporary walls may be constructed to divide the space. "Dividing space thoughtfully allows for us to create narratives," said Natalie Marsh, director and chief curator of the Gund Gallery. "I look forward to creating visual stories, theoretical propositions and assumptions challenging the juxtapositions in these spaces."

The Gallery's maiden exhibit, "Seeing/Knowing," opens Thursday, October 27th. It features 16 contemporary artists whose work deals with information, data and systems.

The new gallery space will replace the Olin Gallery located on the Library's lower level. A spatial consultant will come to study the library space in hopes of finding a new use for the Olin Gallery, perhaps as part of a redesigned library entrance, according to Ron Griggs, vice president for Library and Information Services.

Marsh, who has an MFA in painting and a Ph.D. in South Asian and Himalayan art history from The Ohio State University, comes to Kenyon from Denison, where she served as the first official director of that University's art museum.

She is joined by Megan Hancock, curatorial assistant, Robert Colby, the curator of academic and interpretive programs and Julie Leone, the gallery's collections manager and registrar.

The gallery is complete with a loading dock, freight elevator, exhibition preparation space and a collection storage facility, and the staff will soon transport visual art collection storage facility, and the staff will soon transport visual art and artifacts from the college's collection beyond the college's teaching collection. "If a faculty member comes to Marsh. "I am adamant about insuring that any exhibitions with rural America include collaboration with Knox County residents. Beyond acquiring works that could serve as classroom aids, the gallery will also establish a collection of contemporary art. "It is unreasonable for the Gund to make its mark by becoming an encyclopedic museum," Marsh said. "We are a little late to that game."

Given that many trustees, parents, alumni and donors are modern and contemporary art collectors, "it seems a natural fit for Kenyon," Marsh said, "to become an unrivaled leader in 20th- and 21st-century art? She added, however, that any donation to the collection, regardless of period, region or style will be a valuable addition in expanding the collection's teaching and research resources.

Students will be involved every step of the way. The gallery's associates program launches soon. It will give students the opportunity to assist in research, marketing, and installation.

"f firmly believe that the Gund Gallery will make its mark in our category — small liberal arts academic museum — by significantly involving students in its every process and project," Marsh said. "Few museums do this."
In her second season leading the Ladies field hockey team, Head Coach Chrissy Needham looks forward to a promising season in which her team went 10–11 overall and 8–4 in conference.

“This is my second year here, my second season, and my goals for this program are to raise the level of the program so that we’re competing for the conference championship every year,” Needham said.

The Ladies lost four graduating seniors, but their roster is more balanced and has more depth and sophomores. The incoming class is the first that Needham personally scouted and recruited, making their collegiate debut even more meaningful to her.

“This year I’m very excited to see a recruiting class of players that I have seen play quite a bit that I’ve put some talent and effort into recruiting, with,” Needham said. “I’m excited to see how they do at the collegiate level and the impact that they have on our team. Mixed in with them we have a core group of returning players who all had memorable playing time last year.”

The short preseason means that the Ladies must simultaneously get into season shape, acclimate to playing with each other and develop a team identity. Despite its size and youth, the team has shown a good work ethic and a willingness to go all out for their sport and for each other.

“We really hit the ground running with that, literally, and I’ve been really happy with the work rate of everyone on the field, freshmen through upperclassmen,” Needham said. “[It’s] very hard to tell the difference between a junior and a freshman when you watch our practice, so [I] very much have the team dynamic at this point. I think that provides comfort with each other and supporting each other and trying to just find the best way or the best combination of players.”

A challenge in the new season will be the addition of DePauw University to the NCAC this season. An added obstacle when the Ladies travel to DePauw is the surface of DePauw’s home turf. “It’s not turf, it’s grass and Needham is not a fan of playing on grass.

“I’m excited about raising the level of play and exposure for field hockey from the North Coast Athletic Conference on a national level, and to add another quality team to our conference will help us to that end,” Needham said. “[Geaux] just adds a lot of different variables, whereas our turf is pretty much the same every day we go out there, the ball bounces pretty much the same way. My philosophy of how I like our team to play is [that] I’d rather be on turf than grass.”

The Ladies will hit off their regular season play this weekend, Sept. 3 and 4, at Centre College in Danville, Ky., facing two non-conference opponents in Centre and Rhodes College. Needham sees the road trip as an opportunity to acclimate the freshmen to a typical game day routine and travel at the collegiate level. The trip also presents a scouting opportunity for the Ladies, since several other conference opponents will be attending the tournament as well. Needham sees a bright future for her young team.

“I think, so far, from a team dynamic and cohesiveness standpoint, we’re doing very well,” Needham said. “The girls are all buying into the team concept with very little selfishness. They’re very team-oriented and we have some good leadership despite our age. I think some good things will happen, and, as long as we stay focused, and everybody stays positive and working hard, I think we’ll be better in November than we are today, and hopefully full-into conference qualifiers, if not better.”

The Ladies are scheduled to start the season this weekend in Kentucky. Head Coach Chrissy Needham has high hopes for her team this season and in seasons to come.