Students express creativity at exhibition

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Photo by Matthew Lee Miller

Kristy Leverock, fine arts sophomore, talks with her boyfriend, Mark Biros, at the Annual Student Juried Exhibition on Nov. 15. Leverock's sculpture, "Social Portrait 2" (pictured) won two awards.

Wendy Turner had never taken an art class at IU Southeast.

Inexperience didn't stop the advertising and communications senior from getting her work accepted into the IU Southeast Annual Student Juried Exhibition. Turner said she was surprised, but excited nonetheless.

"It was crazy," Turner said. "I was totally in shock."

The exhibition opened Nov. 15 in the Ogle Center with a catered reception followed by an awards ceremony. The exhibition runs through Jan. 7, 2008.

Turner's work, a cubist piece done with acrylic on canvas titled "Delaney's Dreams" won a Foundation award. Turner said her daughter was the inspiration for the piece, and she enjoyed expressing her creativity.

"It was a lot of fun," Turner said. "I will continue to paint, for sure."

Susan Moffett, professor of fine arts, said the timing of the exhibition was a change from previous years.

"This is the first time we've done this during the fall semester," Moffett said. "It represents work that was done last semester."

She said the students who were selected to participate gained experience in matting, framing and hanging their work.

Moffett also said the exhibition gives students experience with presenting their work to the public.

"They get the opportunity to see their work exhibited in a professional exhibit," she said.

She said the exhibition was also a learning opportunity for students whose work was not selected to be shown.

"Some students entered work and did not get in," Moffett said. "Just because they don't doesn't mean you shouldn't jump back in."

Moffett said the juror for the exhibition was Marc Jacobson, associate professor of fine arts at IUPUI.

She also said the library sponsors a competition and encouraged students to participate.

Ashley Cornelius, fine arts and drawing sophomore, was also getting her first experience showing her art to the public.

Her piece, "Agnus Dei" (Lamb of God), depicted a lamb in the forefront with a cross on a hill in the background.

"It kind of has a mixed meaning," Cornelius said. "Different people get different takes on it."

Cornelius said her work was very labor intensive, and was done on a piece of metal that was sandblasted.

"I had to always be in the studio," Cornelius said. "You can't just erase any of your mistakes."

Kristy Leverock, fine arts sophomore, also won two awards for her sculpture, "Social Portrait 2." Leverock said the IUS faculty was supportive of her work and the award money would be put to good use.

"I'll have more money to work on my other ones," Leverock said. "I have new ideas for my next series."

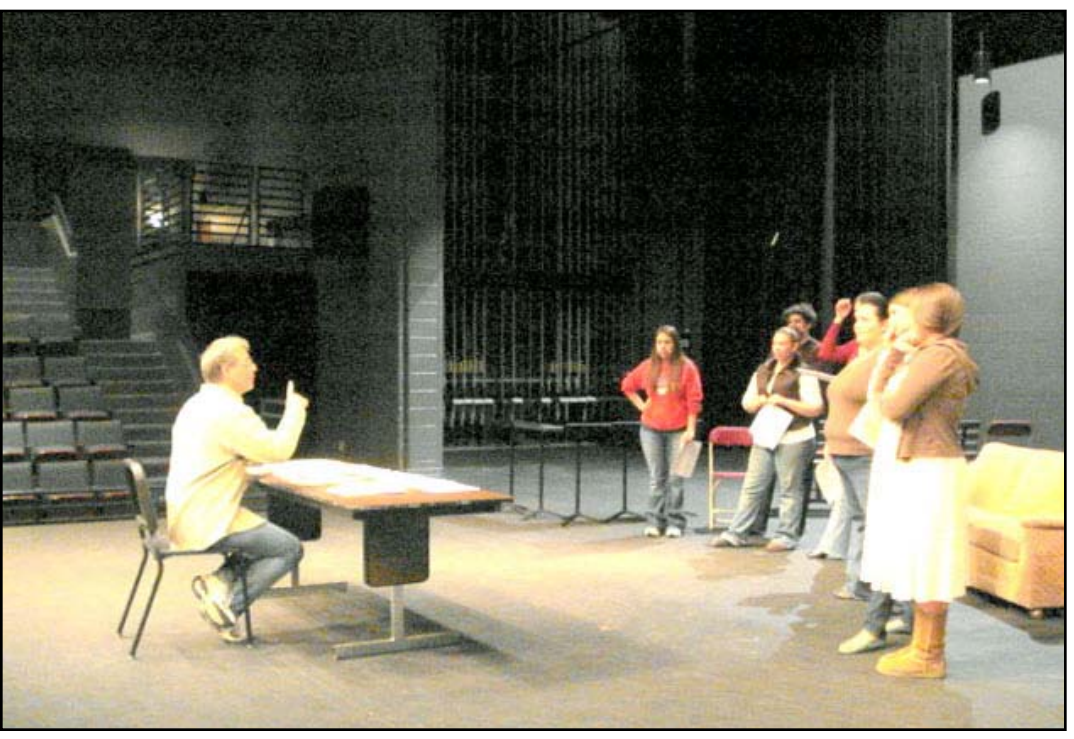

Photo by Erica Sellers

Students audition for "House of Blue Leaves," an IUS play, Nov. 14 at IU Southeast. Call-backs were made Nov. 16. The play is scheduled to open spring 2008.

Auditions held for IUS play

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Auditions were held Nov. 13 for House of Blue Leaves, a future IUS play opening in spring 2008.

College students had only one chance of impressing the director of the play, Jim Hesselman, to be considered for a role.

Hesselman said some of the qualities he considers when deciding who makes the cast list is punctuality, preparation, and a positive attitude.

"If I ask for a monologue I want to see how well prepared they are to perform it," Hesselman said. "Are they on time to auditions? How well do they annunciate or how loud can they speak? Do they have a positive outlook? These are some of the basic questions I think about when considering anyone for the cast list."

More aspects that Hesselman said he must consider are how well the person fits the specific physical requirements and if the rehearsing schedule will be an issue.

"I have to make sure that the physical requirements are met, and I want to make sure that whoever I consider for a role in the play will not miss the rehearsals," he said. "One time I had someone tell me they were going to have to miss all of the rehearsals and ask me if it would be a problem."

Auditions come in two parts. First there are try-outs, then the call backs. Hesselman said a call back is when he calls the people he thought were the best out of the original try-outs and gives them one more chance to impress him.

Six students tried out on Nov. 14 and all six of them were at the call-back audition that took place Nov. 16.

Ashley McMurtry, theatre senior, tried out and received a call back.

McMurtry said the best advice she could give anyone trying out would be to try their best.

"Well you do your best and you make sure you know what you're doing," McMurtry said. "Know your monologue and be very confident. Don't take it personal if you don't get picked. It's not you it's just they may not be looking for you."

Another call-back was Justin Rich, a theatre freshman at University of Louisville. Rich said Hesselman encouraged him to try out.

"Try to convey the relationships with other characters," Rich said. "Try and do things that make you show how you fit the part."

Both McMurtry and Rich agreed that auditions remain the hardest obstacles to overcome in theatre.

"Once you get past the auditions and the call backs it is pretty much smooth sailing," McMurtry said. "You know your place is secure. The rehearsals are also a lot of work but it pays off."

"Auditioning is the worst but the show is the best," Rich said.

Hesselman said that The House of Blue Leaves is going to make people laugh and make people think. He said the play deals with the pressures of life and how one man handles it.

"Basically the play is about frustration, frustration of a songwriter who never made it and what happens when all the crazy people in the world get together in one day," Hesselman said.

McMurtry had to read and act out the lines from most of the female parts ranging from the main character's estranged wife to the nuns crawling through his apartment window.

"I'm a theatre major and it's what we do," McMurtry said.

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– Winston Churchill