



Photo by Courtney Gaillard

Paul Tazewell sits in front of one of his original designs from "The Canterbury Tales."

School of the Arts alumnus returns to city to share expertise

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

N.C. School of the Arts alumnus Paul Tazewell returned to his alma mater last weekend to share with students about his 17-year costume design career. Tazewell conducted a daylong costume design project with students in the School of Design & Production at NCSA, where he hoped to teach them to "theatricalize" a written piece through clothing.

Originally from Akron, Ohio, Tazewell's family — who has lived in this area for some time — brought the NCSA to his attention while he was a student at a performing arts high school in his hometown. Tazewell says he intended to become a theater performer before studying costume design.

"I think that I've actually (accomplished) almost everything that I envisioned that I would be doing...Right out of graduate school I was fortunate enough to start to design on my own, and I did most of my assistant work while I was still in graduate school," said Tazewell, who, after receiving his bachelor of arts degree in costume design in 1986, went on to earn a master's degree from New York University.

Tazewell's costume designs have been seen in Broadway productions like "On the Town," "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Henry V," "Venus" and "Blade to the Heat" as well as in numerous off-Broadway productions like "Fame" and "Dinah Was." His work has garnered him several awards, including the Princess

Grace Foundation Fellowship, the Michael Merritt Award for Excellence in Design and Collaboration, and the Irene Sharaff Young Master Award, to name a few.

Most recently a guest artist with the Boston Ballet, Tazewell has worked with world renowned set designer Ming Cho Lee on the Shakespeare epic drama "Peer Gynt."

Tazewell's work has even earned him a Tony nomination for his costume design on "Bring in Da Noise, Bring in Da Funk," a goal he says he set for himself while studying at NCSA.

"(The Tony nomination) was pretty thrilling....The question is now what do I do with my life and what are my expectations for this career? So I've been exploring that and trying to figure out what I want to do next," Tazewell said.

Fashion design is not the main component of costume design, Tazewell says. More important, it is about images and their relationships to characters in a story.

"Costume design is such a perfect place for me, just because of all of the things that go into the doing of it. It's anthropological, it's psychological and emotional (along with) the amount of research that you put into it, and then putting it down into paper, so that it goes into a shop and then becomes a two-dimensional thing. All of those elements together are everything that I'm about and how I exist. So it's a perfect way of expressing my creativity and

my art," Tazewell said.

Mark Pirolo, interim dean of the NCSA School of Design & Production, was equally thrilled to have Tazewell back on campus. Tazewell is proof, in Pirolo's opinion, that the NCSA is preparing great artists to make tremendous contributions to the arts.

"We're beginning to have significant (alumni) who can come back (to NCSA), which, of course, we're proud and we're elated, like parents, and at the same time it's really wonderful for our students. It validates their experience in terms of what we do here," Pirolo said.

Despite a lot of architectural changes in the campus scenery since he was a student many years ago, Tazewell says that his trip back to NCSA was "great." He credits the school — somewhere he will always call "home" — for giving him the foundation to become a successful theater costume designer. In Tazewell's eyes, the NCSA will always be "a charmed place."

"(As a student at NCSA) there was this really great energy, and there was something about this school that created this haven of artistic energy....I feel that (NCSA) set up a very strong confidence in being able to go out and produce, not only technically, but also a basis for designing as well," Tazewell said.

Currently Tazewell is doing some regional work in New Jersey, where he lives. His next design project is the ballet "Swan Lake" for the Pacific Northwest Ballet.



Photo by Courtney Gaillard

Author David Haynes holds a collection of his books.

Haynes

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the African-American Read-In, a national reading event that highlights African-American authors.

"I taught middle school sixth grade for many years, and I loved it. It was a really important part of my life, and so I've also wanted a way of keeping my hand in with younger students and getting to them in terms of literacy, particularly with reading and writing," Haynes said.

Haynes' stories are inspired by his experiences with middle schoolers and he knows all too well just how rambunctious youngsters can be.

"I got ideas from my students, from my sixth-graders. A lot of the things that happen in the books happened when I was teaching sixth grade," said Haynes, who taught middle school for 15 years.

The challenge in writing for children, says Haynes, is learning how to engage the younger readers and writing sequels based on his characters.

Mary Pat Reese's sixth-grade class spent an hour asking Haynes

some questions about his book series, his inspiration and the writing profession. The students paid homage to Haynes' stories by performing skits and songs based on his writings.

Haynes told the students: "That really is a terrific thing to see how you have appreciated my imagination, and I really appreciate what you all have done. This is really exciting. I'm having the best time today."

As a child, Haynes says he enjoyed reading the Henry Huggins books series. He cites Laura Ingalls Wilder and Beverly Cleary as two of his favorite authors.

Sixth-grader Leon Porter read Haynes' "The Gumma Wars." Porter says that Haynes' books are "funny," and he appreciates that the stories are about "kids his age."

"When I see these kids here interpreting my work and imagining it in their own way, that's pretty powerful. It's pretty humbling in a lot of ways — humbling in the sense that it makes you understand the importance of being responsible to your readers because they really do take it serious and it is meaningful to them," Haynes said.

Haynes has also written adult fiction: "Somebody Else's Mama," "Right By My Side," "Heathens" and "Live at Five." Several members of the Mineral Springs faculty formed a book club around Haynes' adult books. Later that afternoon, they gathered at the home of eighth-grade communication skills teacher Joan Celestino to talk with Haynes at length about his adult stories.

"(Haynes) just loves being with kids to be able to get somebody that the kids can match up with. So often we get people coming (to the school) who don't look like our (student) population. He has taught in schools like this and he can recognize that our climate is really excellent and that we're really doing something great with the kids," Celestino said.

Celestino and Haynes are old colleagues from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, an independent, non-profit, nonpartisan organization governed by a board of classroom teachers.

Haynes is finishing up another adult book to be published sometime next year. His last adult book was published in 1998.

There she is



Photo by Felicia McMillan

Miss Carver Yellow Jacket 2003 (center) Diedre Pender stands among her court and sponsors: Sponsor Jamie Lomax, Ashley Payne, Joy Carson, Quaniekia Shavers, Tiffany Murray, Miss Yellow jacket 2002, Erica McCrae, Tavyn Richardson, Lanika Horn and sponsor Paula Boozer

A&T

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They allow the program specialist within the school system to be creative to develop curriculum and materials for students' success. That's what I really like about working for our school system," Harper said.

The city/county school system does not offer career technology courses in summer school. Students needing a final technology credit would need to attend the following semester to meet graduation requirements. This new distance-learning program will allow technology students to finish their required course work on time.

"This is the first time that (the city/county school system) has worked out a four-year agreement in career technical education, and that's why it's historical. It will be the first (program of this kind) in the state," Harper said.

N.C. A&T was chosen because it offers courses in technology comparable to Winston-Salem/Forsyth

County Schools, Harper said.

"Everybody at (N.C.) A&T was definitely for (the program); they approved it and it's in the works," Harper said.

Dr. Nancy Glenz, chairperson of the graphic communication systems and technological studies department in the School of Technology at N.C. A&T, has worked with Harper to formulate a union between the two schools.

"We're just so delighted that we can make this (program) come to pass because we think it's going to be exciting for the students, and we're looking forward to delivering and meeting with the students," Glenz said.

High school students will be studying how various aspects of technology — from biotechnology, transportation, medicine and computers — have evolved over time, and where technology is headed in the future, Glenz said. The

goal is to make the students "more technologically literate" and teach them to realize how technology has assisted mankind over time.

Glenz said N.C. A&T sees this as an opportunity to educate students as well as recruit students to the university.

"We hope to encourage youngsters then to come on to college. So we're kind of seeing it as a recruiting tool as well as providing them with the education that they need to finish up their high school diploma. It's really a win-win (situation) for everybody," Glenz said.

Harper said officials are preparing for at least 10 students to sign up for the distance-learning course.

The city/county school system is holding talks to create another dual-enrollment course program with Winston-Salem State University's business department.

Notice of Public Meeting

WHO **WINSTON-SALEM DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

WHAT **US 52 LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

WHEN **THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2003 PRESENTATION AT TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING 4:15 PM OPEN HOUSE 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

WHERE **WINSTON-SALEM CITY HALL SOUTH 100 EAST FIRST STREET FIFTH FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBER**

The Winston-Salem Department of Transportation (WS DOT) has contracted with the consulting firm of RS&H to prepare the US 52 Land Use and Transportation Plan for the US 52 Corridor between Interstate 40 and Rural Hall. A presentation will be made during the TAC meeting, which begins at 4:15 PM followed by an Open House between 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM.

Visit the US 52 WEBSITE at www.us52study.com

Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations should call (336) 727-2707 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to make arrangements.

For more information contact:

Greg Errett Project Manager Winston-Salem DOT (336) 727-2707 greg@cityofws.org

Janice K. Anderson, PE Project Manager RS&H (704) 752-0610 jan.anderson@rsandb.com

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