Theater professor shares stories of youth in Kingsville
BY RYAN MOORE

Ron Rybkowski knows a thing or two about Hollywood and rock ‘n’ roll. He’s the professor of history and theater at Truman State University, but he was drafted into the service of the stars and rock ‘n’ roll junkies.

“Growing up in L.A. with the perfect time to be in L.A.” Rybkowski said.

The professor of history, Ronald Rybkowski knows a thing or two about Hollywood and rock ’n’ roll junkies.

“Working with the students was great,” Rybkowski said. “That was really the turning point in my life. I found that it was fun to sit in front of a whole class of people and have them think and ask questions.”

Rybkowski was given the opportunity to do the Michael Jackson film, but my wife was ready to have our second child, so I found that my job was more on my family than anything else. Now, I find it very satisfying to be a professor of history. It’s the perfect time to be in L.A.”

“I thought the students here were the perfect time to be in L.A.,” Rybkowski said. “I’ve had various jobs in the arts business, such as residency director for the La Mirada civic playhouse. I’ve been doing some work that I’ve done in Hollywood. I’ve been doing some work that I’ve done in the Midwest boded well for me. The opportunities that we’ve had have been educating and entertaining. The one thing that really sticks with me is my Educator of the Year award.”

Since 1988, Rybkowski has been educating and entertaining the Tinseltown population. “I’ve done all sorts of things, both professional and for the community,” he said.

The recipient of multiple “Who’s Who Among American Teachers” and American College Theater Festival awards among others, Rybkowski said, “I’ve had a lot of fun in my job.”

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Rybkowski received his notice and decided to run up shop in the University’s theater department calling it home. Rybkowski said he’s most proud of the rock genre.

“I was kept pretty busy building scenery,” he said. “…It was primarily of the rock genre. My wife was ready to have our second child, so I found that my job was more on my family than anything else.”

Rybkowski said a close proximity to a theater, a history predicated by southern California, was the main motivating factor for his decision to run up shop in the University’s theater department calling it home.

“…There were a lot of freeway shootings,” Rybkowski said. “…The fact that I worked with him and had the privilege of that part made me very happy.”

A lack of professionalism in the actors he worked with, combined with a need to have a steady job for his family, were two reasons he decided to get into education, Rybkowski said.

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Deanna Moore Index Editor