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Theatre professor Dominique Glaros makes adjustments to one of her designs in the costume shop. Glaros draws inspiration both from the musical's script and the music as well as historical research on the fashion of the times.



History informs theatre costumes

BY ANNA GRACE

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Recreating historical fashion for the campus production of "Little Women" has given the costume department a challenge.

The show, which is set between 1862 and 1866, is being produced by the Truman State Theatre Department. Dominique Glaros, temporary assistant theatre professor, said making the costumes has presented several challenges.

"This is a time period where one dress takes 10 yards of fabric," Glaros said. "We're always using our funds very creatively."

Glaros said another challenge is the department hasn't produced many plays set in the same time period. This means there are less items that can be "pulled" or taken from the stock of costumes from other plays, though they did not have to build the men's suits. She said they rented two gowns, some petticoats and hoop skirts from her alma mater, University of Cincin-

nati — College-Conservatory of Music, but they have had to build many of the costumes themselves.

When it comes time to design the costumes, Glaros said she reads the show several times and, in the case of musicals such as this, listens to the music.

"So much of it depends on what the character needs because in addition to creating a period accurate silhouette, we're also trying to convey character through the clothes, just like an actor does through what they're doing," Glaros said.

After determining how many costumes each character needs, Glaros said she starts research. To make the costumes historically accurate, Glaros does research, mostly from books, because she said the accuracy of websites often is questionable. She said rarely can she base a costume off an exact image of a single design and recreate it exactly. She said it is more common to be inspired by different elements of the look, such as the silhouette or prevalent details.

After research, Glaros said she makes



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Top, renderings of the costumes are based on historical research. Middle, then dresses are built from patterns made by workers in the costume department shop. Above, senior Joanne Heggemann, left, and junior Megan Boren, right, who said making historical costumes has presented challenges, work on costumes.

her renderings, which the department turns into patterns and then into costumes.

Senior Joanne Heggemann and junior Megan Boren are both interns in the costume department and both said there are many challenges when making the old-fashioned clothes.

"Well, the skirts are a lot bigger," said Heggemann. "We tend to be drowning in those."

Heggemann said there also were different seams, which were in the mid-back of the dress, they had to use when making the dresses. Boren said cap sleeves have also been a challenge.

Boren, who is the Assistant Costume Designer of the show, said although she did some of her own personal research, they are going off of Glaros' renderings.

The department is striving for historical accuracy, but Heggemann said there are

considerations that have to be made. She said if the costumes were completely accurate, actors would not be able to move their arms above shoulder level in the clothing. Because in one scene the character Jo has to box, they had to add some gussets, which made the movement available to her, Heggemann said.

Boren said because the performance is a musical, the costumes had to be more moveable, and that had to be kept in consideration.

Heggemann said her favorite parts of making the historical costumes are the sheer volume of the skirts, the seam lines and the petticoats.

"The drawings turned to real life is always just a magical thing for me," Boren said. "I just love the beauty of this era."

"Little Women" is showing Feb. 27 to March 2.

Homemade review site achieves success

BY CHRIS BROWN

Staff Reporter

Investors, corporate connections, well-known writers and money — PopCitizen.com cofounder and alumnus Joseph Leiber said these are the typical requirements for building a successful website. Somehow, the team of PopCitizen.com makes it happen without any of these factors, he said.

PopCitizen.com, originally designed by Leiber and junior Logan McCamon during 2011, features reviews of movies, video games, TV shows and music, and they make it all happen during their spare time. The site has been successful, Leiber said it made alexa.com's list of the top 3,000 websites in Kansas City during winter break.

McComon and Leiber said they created the site during 2011 when they were introduced to each other by a mutual friend. Leiber was a writer, and McCamon was a computer sci-

ence major who was looking for a fun side project. McCamon said Leiber originally had wanted help with a review blog Leiber was working on, but they soon decided to incorporate some additional writers and make it a full-scale review site.

The only costs the site faces are those associated with hosting the site, McCamon said. He said rather than pay thousands of dollars for the most popular look, he designed the site's layout and did all of the code for free, using only his own computer skills.

Additionally, McCamon said the site doesn't pay for any advertising. He attributed all of the site's traffic to word of mouth, by one user sharing with their friends who share it with their friends and so on in an organic and decentralized process.

Another attribute of PopCitizen is the writers, many of whom contribute articles every week from different regions through-

out the U.S. and even around the world, McCamon said.

McComon said they have 10 writers who contribute one or more reviews per week, and many more who contribute less frequently. He said most of their writers are friends or people who were already posting reviews on Facebook who they asked to join PopCitizen.com.

"We have a girl from Indonesia, some people from the northeast and Texas, so we're pretty diverse," McCamon said.

Leiber said the site owes its success to the writers who produce the reviews and advertise the site to their friends and acquaintances, which is how he said the site attracts most of its viewers.

As part of the site's policy of authenticity and originality, PopCitizen.com's writers are not mandated to write to a rigid format or review score. Rather, the authors come up with the content on their own, without being told what to write or how to write it, Leiber said.

"The idea is that the article should have something interesting enough in it to drive someone to read the whole article," Leiber said.

Leiber said the writers don't make any money from the website either. Their only incentive to produce the reviews is their own desire to do it, which Leiber said is part of the website's appeal. He said the quality of the reviews reflects the fact that the authors are writing them because they want to.

However, Leiber also said if the website starts making money, their first priority will be to get some revenue to the writers.

Alumnus Peter Johnson has been writing film and TV reviews for PopCitizen.com since the website began. He said he started by posting his own reviews on Facebook for fun, and when he heard Leiber was starting a review website, he saw an opportunity to go a step further and publish reviews for PopCitizen.com.

Johnson said the website's editorial process occurs online. He said writers post ideas and make sure two people aren't reviewing the same thing, then they submit drafts for Leiber — and sometimes other editors — to approve.

In addition to writing for PopCitizen.com, Johnson is a full-time graduate student. He said he finds time to see films and write reviews because he enjoys it and thinks it's a good outlet for expression, in addition to looking good on a resume.

Despite being a side project run by a group of relatively inexperienced and busy people, Johnson said the PopCitizen.com team continually seeks to expand its horizons and provide more content. Johnson said the site currently is working on including interviews in its music review repertoire.

"There are a lot of challenges, but that doesn't stop us from moving forward with it," Johnson said.



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MAE Admissions Update

Congratulations to the students who were accepted for admission into the
Master of Arts in Education program
in the fall of 2012!

Elementary Education: Alyssa Bollinger, Brittan Bowman, Nicole Boyer, Emily Bozdeck, Erin Bradley, Amy Burbee, Grace Cripps, Emily Daniels, Anne Deterding, Allyssa Dummerth, Joel Fischer, Amy Hiatt, Erin Hirtzel, Tu Ho, Emily Jameson, Angela Johnson, Megan Kabler, Skylar Keyes, Korey Kimball. **English:** Christine Knapp, Bradley LaPlante, Andrea Linskey, Jenna McClanahan, Gabrielle Muesenfechter, Hannah Oberlohr, Sarah Perry, Taylor Probst. **Music:** Julianne Varriano, Rebecca Watkins. **Science:** Morgan Anderson, Daniel Bader, Amanda Bell, Michelle Berryman. **Social Science:** Nicole Renfro, Kirsten Self, Justin Shank, Jarrod Sims, Sarah Trosen, Kaylee Van Weelden. **Visual Arts:** Brent Wildhaber, Ryan Wissmann.