2006

Curiosity Has Been His Inspiration

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Since then, he has acted in four productions and assisted with nearly every other play. This fall he directed Woyzeck, a dark 19th century German play that serves as a commentary on the aftermath of war and its effect on its soldiers.

Although Höyreck was the first full-length production that Ogden directed, he had directed one-act Icebreaker plays and served as assistant director of Sapiens under the tutelage of Janet Gupton, assistant professor of theatre arts. In addition, each of the four plays in which he performed featured a different director, which provided insight into how different people approach that role.

"Directing Höyreck was rewarding because it is a reflection of everything I have done and accomplished at Linfield," Ogden said.

Ogden was attracted to theatre in part for the visual aspects, and scenic and costume design. He enjoys performing, but also finds directing interesting because the director is the inspiration for all aspects of the production.

"A lot of art is very individualistic," he said. "In theatre, it is ultimately collaborative and it goes beyond the artists involved. It's about communicating with an audience and communicating with each other."

Ogden is curious about all aspects of theatre and is creative and talented, said Gupton.

"He raises intelligent questions and engages in the materials well beyond the average student," she said. "He loves the collaborative nature of theatre and sees the potential theatre has to raise issues and generate discussion."

Although he has had many great professors, Ogden said Gupton has been his greatest inspiration.

"She has such passion for the theatre and it's easy for her to get excited about what her students are doing," Ogden said. "She is very patient, encouraging and dedicated and has been a profound teacher for me. She continues to push the envelope in her own art and it's fun to be involved.

Ogden had planned to graduate with a theatre arts degree in December. But after learning he was just a few credits shy of an English major, he opted to stay one more semester.

"I have a fascination with history, and both theatre and English allowed me to explore history and the words of people who were seeing the world at a different time," he said. He's unsure of his plans after graduation, but is considering work in the theatre or film industry.

— Mardi Milham