

Professor shuns law dreams to entertain different audience

By Joeth Zucco
Staff Reporter

When Kevin Paul Hofeditz was a little boy, he wanted to be a lawyer when he grew up. Lawyers get to perform in front of people. Now, 33 years later, he's performing to a different audience.

Hofeditz, an associate professor of theater arts, has been acting since junior high when he was in the chorus of Oliver. In high school, Hofeditz said, he was getting advice to pursue an acting career professionally and followed through in college.

"I enjoy it," Hofeditz said. "I don't really feel I have this huge need to be on stage, which many

actors say they do.

"I look upon acting as any other career. I have abilities and interests and use them in the same way an architect would. You go with your interests and talents and I feel fortunate that I can do it and make a living."

Hofeditz began working as an actor in St. Louis after graduating from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville in December 1976. Employed with acting jobs half the time, he spent the other half teaching part time at a junior college. Teaching led him back to school to graduate with a Masters of Fine Arts in acting and directing from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1982.

In the summer of 1983, Hofeditz

was invited to participate in the Nebraska Summer Repertory Theater. That fall he began teaching in the theater department.

"I felt fortunate in 1983 to be teaching here," he said. "I assumed in my first teaching position I would have to pay my dues somewhere in the sticks, instead I found myself at a reputable university."

Having been promoted to an associate professor last month, he continues to split his time between teaching and recruiting and acting in several productions.

Hofeditz is currently starring in the Nebraska Repertory Theater's summer productions of Pippin, The Voice of the Prairie and Noises Off. Al-

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Hofeditz
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'Roger Rabbit' release coincides with 20th Tournee of Animation



By Charles Lieurance
Senior Editor

The box office smash "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?" has prompted a renewed, almost fanatical interest in animation. The success of that film could make animation and its lowbrow cousin cartooning, the elite medium of the last part of the 1980s.

The 20th International Tournee of Animation being shown at the Sheldon Film Theatre this week is a per-

fect coda to "Roger Rabbit" and the recent appearance by master animator Chuck Jones at the Sheldon during the Flatwater Festival.

The Tournee, for the 20th year, has gathered together the best in world animation. The films run the gamut from the sophisticated to silly, representing the cutting edge of animation — animation as art and entertainment. The 18 films being shown in the Tournee are from 10 countries: New Zealand, Belgium, Hungary, China, Switzerland, Italy, the Soviet Union, England, Poland and the United States.

The films demonstrate the extreme variety in animation techniques. Aside from the standard inked-cel animation, clay animation and detailed computer generated animation are also represented.

The Tournee has always been full of surprises, little illusory miracles that cause the artform to progress at leaps and bounds, but this year's 20th Anniversary Tournee is particularly exciting. Each film challenges the medium technically as well as the-

matically.

Perhaps the highlight of the Tournee is "Break!," a Soviet film using clay animated boxers to illustrate political conflict. The 10 minute film, the longest in the series, is a fluid piece of work, without the usual stiff, robotic movements often associated with clay animation. But the political message of "Break!" is secondary to the boxing tale itself, a smooth-flowing narrative played out by clay characters who speak some clever, nonsensical babble that reminds one of real languages but actually acts as a unifying Esperanto. It allows the film to transcend language barriers entirely.

The most oddball effort in the Tournee is a cooperative effort between animation "teams" from the United States, China, Switzerland and Poland, called "Academy Leader Variations." Leader is the first several inches of film on a reel, usually a countdown to the film itself that allows the projectionist to cue the film up precisely. Each team submitted

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