

Creative interests keep AQ student active

By Barbara Ann Homick
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — For David LaDue, creativity is a way of life, and the Aquinas senior has found art, theater and music to be effective outlets for his creative expression.

In March, LaDue received a certificate of recognition at the New York State Museum's Imagination Celebration art com-



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
David LaDue

petition. His drawing "The white spaces behind the faces look like other faces in different places" was selected as one of 249 works out of a field of 2,000 entries to be displayed by the Albany museum.

In April, he learned that the drawing had also won him a \$1,000 scholarship. Of the 249 artists whose entries were recognized in the state competition, only 15 received monetary awards.

Although LaDue has been drawing seriously since his first year at Aquinas, the Imagination Celebration was the first art competition he ever entered. His study of art began with a freshman-year art history course, and intensified during his sophomore and junior years. Last summer, the young artist studied charcoal and pencil drawing at the Memorial Art Gallery, and he plans to concentrate on advanced drawing and painting at Aquinas this fall.

The son of Bill and Marge LaDue of Penfield, LaDue likes all forms of art, but said he is at his best when drawing.

"I attempt to paint, but I always come back to basic pencil drawing," he remarked.

The idea for his award-winning drawing originated in his junior-level art class at Aquinas. Students were instructed to crumple a piece of aluminum foil, then open it and draw what they saw. After the students finished their realistic drawings of the crumpled foil, they were asked to make abstract drawings of what they saw in the foil. When LaDue looked within the bent metal, he saw the images of hundreds of tiny faces contained within the peaks and valleys of the foil.



The white spaces behind the faces look like other faces in different places by David LaDue.

Even though LaDue will be a senior this fall, he hasn't decided what he wants to do after graduation. He is considering majoring in art, or possibly architecture, following in his father's footsteps.

Although LaDue enjoys drawing and painting for recreation, much of his artistic endeavor is devoted to building up a strong portfolio containing different styles of art.

"Basically, I have to do art on my own if I want to get a portfolio for college," he observed. "I like doing it, but it's also something that I have to do. I wouldn't do it if I didn't enjoy it, though."

In addition to his focus on art, LaDue has an avid interest in dramatics. He became involved in theatrical productions during the spring of his sophomore year when he had four small roles in Aquinas' production of "Sugar."

As a junior, LaDue did all the technical work, including lighting and sound design, for the fall production of "A Midsummer's Night Dream" and the spring show, "Pirates of Penzance." Next year, LaDue will be technical director for "The Elephant Man" in the fall and "Bye-Bye Birdie" in the spring.

This summer he took part in a five-week theater workshop Aquinas offered for high school and college students, directing a one-act play entitled "Personal Effects" and playing Prince Charming in "Cinderella." The two productions kept him busy four nights a week throughout June and July.

LaDue enjoys acting, but finds more enjoyment in the challenges offered by the technical process — from building the sets to creating lighting charts. "Every day is different as technical director," he said.

Another facet of LaDue's creativity is music. He has been playing the piano since he was 11, and still takes lessons once a week. He attributes his musical talent to his dad.

"My dad played the drums forever and used to be in bands. I've always been around music," said LaDue.

The talented senior has also found time to be involved in athletics throughout his high school career. During freshman year he ran track, and as a sophomore played soccer. He enjoys playing golf and basket-

ball in his spare time, as well as water and snow skiing.

Now that it's September, LaDue is eager to get back to school and see his friends. But he's not fooling himself; he knows this will be his toughest year ever. Being involved in the theater is a full-time job, he acknowledged.

LaDue isn't sure what the future holds for him, but he does plan to enter more art competitions this year, including another entry in the state competition and the RIT Case-Hoyt Art Show. And he said he will always find some way to be involved in the theater.

Although he appreciates the scholarship, LaDue said the personal satisfaction of having something to show for himself is more meaningful. He encouraged young people to be as active as possible and to try new activities.

"There is so much I can do. If I just sat around and watched TV or didn't take an art class because I thought it was too hard, I wouldn't have this," he said of his award-winning drawing.

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