

Into the world of fashion

Fraser pieces her future together

Halie Albertson
STAFF WRITER

Most seniors spend their last year of high school stressing over what college they'll attend, what they'll study and what field they'll go into after graduating.

But for Kaitlynn Fraser (12), plans for the future are as clearly laid out as next season's collection.

Fraser will be attending the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM) in San Francisco next fall. She is planning on majoring in fashion design and receiving an Associate of Arts degree. She applied in Fall 2008, and was accepted in December.

After attending FIDM next fall, Fraser hopes to pursue her dream of becoming a fashion designer.

"I would like to do my own full line," Fraser said. "I've done a couple of smaller ones before. Westview Fashion Club had a show last May and I had a seven-outfit line. Hopefully, there will be another one this May, too."

Last year, Fraser put together her first full line, a collection of outfits. But because she was a novice in the fashion industry, she said the show was a mix of styles, textures and colors.

"It was my first experience sewing clothes so nothing really went together," Fraser said. "I used gold and dark green and white and zebra print. It was sort of my experiment."

Fraser's first fashion show experience was chaotic, but she managed to pull it together at the last minute. Fraser is hoping that this year's show will be more cohesive.

"This year is going to work a lot better," Fraser said. "I'm using magenta, gold and dark blue as my main colors, and the styles should all be light and feminine."

Art has always been a major aspect of Fraser's life, so studying fashion made sense.

"My mom was an art teacher, so I grew up with a lot of art in my life, and I've taken a lot of art classes so it progressed to fashion," she said. "Art has always been my focus in one way or another."

Fraser was inspired to start designing and creating garments after learning about both FIDM and the spring fashion show at Westview.

"I didn't even really get into fashion

until I found FIDM," Fraser said. "When I saw what their students were doing, I realized it was perfect for me."

Although Fraser had never sewn before, she mainly taught herself while getting sewing tips from her mom. Since she started sewing, Fraser's skills have progressed through practice.

"You'd probably laugh if you saw my earliest sketches," she said. "I certainly have."

Fraser hopes that attending FIDM will help her refine her skills and her artistic vision even more.

"I'm still trying to figure out my niche in design," Fraser said. "As I get closer to deadlines (like the fashion show), I set aside specific times to work on stuff so I get everything done. Usually, though, I'll sew when I'm inspired to."

For Fraser, inspiration can come from anywhere, and can even inspire specific designs and garments.

"Music is my biggest passion after art," Fraser said. "I love how a bunch of random notes can come together to make something so beautiful. So the mood I get from a certain song will generally inspire the theme for a design."

Apart from music, Fraser said her inspiration comes from anywhere, including interesting people. For example, when Fraser found out that her couture dress in last year's fashion show would be modeled by her friend Molly Rasor (12), she altered her design by making it more dramatic, so it would fit her friend's style and personality.

As a designer, Fraser also gets inspiration from her surroundings, especially in cities like Encinitas. She even planned her upcoming spring collection around Southern California style. Because she is leaving for San Francisco next year, Fraser said this nod to the San Diego area is like saying goodbye.

"I spend a lot of time in Encinitas, and I'll just get a coffee at a café and sketch," she said. "The designs I'm working on right now for the spring show have a Southern California beach feel."

Fraser also gets inspired by San Francisco, which is part of the reason she decided to attend FIDM's San Francisco campus.

"I was born in San Francisco and find it to be extremely inspiring," she said. "It's such a diverse city, and there are so many different types of people. It has a good vibe."

Once Fraser finds her inspiration in the real world, she brings it alive through fashion. She generally drafts her own patterns and comes up with design ideas herself. Fraser said she is excited to attend FIDM next fall for the chance to broaden her horizons and focus on fashion.

"FIDM is a much better use of my time [than a traditional university], because I'm focusing on just my future career," Fraser said. "I'm really looking forward to getting the opportunity to learn from some amazing artists and people in the fashion industry."

But what it all comes down to is Fraser's passion for design, fashion and style.

"As for what I want people to know about me as a designer, they should know to quite literally expect the unexpected," she said. "I don't see the point of doing what people expect. That's no fun. I would much rather shock them. I want to be as inspiring to other people as the world is to me."



Andrew Fan

Photo Illustration by George Jeng

Top: Kaitlynn Fraser (12) shows an outfit in progress in her home studio. Left: Fraser's sketch of one of the many outfits that she has created. Fraser debuted her first line last year and is attending FIDM next Fall.

Reviews in short

Windows 7

Software: ★★★★★

After the widespread negative criticism of Windows Vista, Microsoft was determined to redeem itself.

Enter Windows 7, an overhaul of the Vista operating system. The system performs above expectations, showing quality and finesse tarnished only by its above-average price tag. One of the most notable improvements is the user interface which is anything software-related that the user interacts with. Everything has been streamlined for greater productivity and ease of use. One of the highlights includes a new feature called Aero Peek which allows you to see your desktop without the clutter of any active windows.

Though many of the improvements to the interface are slight, they all contribute to a system that is extremely easy to use and aesthetically pleasing. Such improvements include a pinning feature that allows users to 'pin' common actions to certain programs to increase productivity.

The bottom line is that Windows 7 is a functional system worthy of extensive praise, but is overpriced. The operating system will cost you approximately \$210. The advantages of the Ultimate version are not worth the extra amount of cash, since the extra features, such as the BitLocker Drive Encryption, are trivial and obscure for the average user. Coupling aesthetics with functionality, Microsoft presents a system worthy of the praise, but with the unnecessarily high price tag, it is not necessarily worth the cost.

-George Jeng

The Imagio

Phone: ★★★★★

As thick as an iPhone and full of exciting features, the HTC Imagio is a breath of fresh air in Verizon's relatively weak Smartphone line. Physically, its 3.6-inch touch screen simply defies words, big and bright with a 480x800 pixel resolution. Plastic screens are the thing of the past. The smooth glass surface provides an easy-to-use keyboard, though switching to landscape mode is probably your best bet. Unfortunately the screen drains an unbelievable amount of energy, but taking the time to charge it is worth it for the screen quality you get.

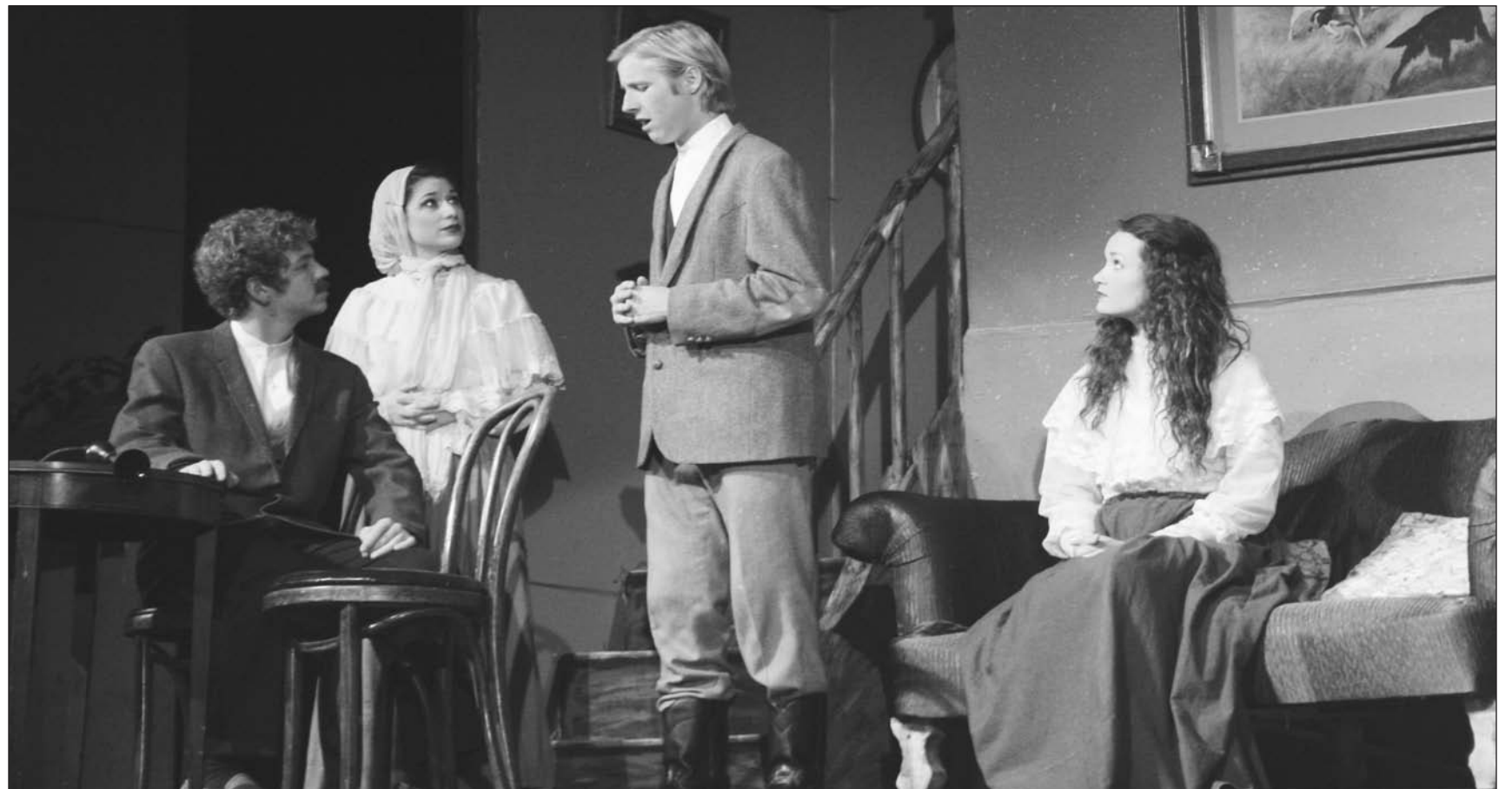
However, Imagio's claim to fame lies in being the first multimedia phone on the Verizon line. It is the first Smartphone to use V Cast Mobile TV, essentially a digital cable box in your phone, which allows users to watch live broadcasts of basic channels like ESPN Mobile TV, if you're worried about missing the game.

If money is not an issue, then the Imagio is definitely worth it, especially for watching Monday Night Football on the bus ride home from away games. Since it operates on Windows 6.5, users have access to Microsoft Office Mobile Suite, which has Word, Powerpoint and Excel, to name a few, in addition to Adobe Reader LE.

The Imagio is costly, but it's definitely worth paying that fee for the features you get.

-Melissa Truong

*All reviews rated out of four stars.



Dominic Lucisano

Connor Bush (10) plays a schoolteacher in *Fools*, alongside Bill Wuehrmann (12), Erika Dukovich (12) and Annie Buell (11), which ran Nov. 5 through Nov. 14. He started acting when his fifth grade teacher suggested that he try out for a musical, he got the lead role, and has been performing ever since.

Bush receives lead role in Fall Play as sophomore

Dominic Lucisano
STAFF WRITER

Sitting at a Westview football game, Connor Bush (10) got an unexpected call from an old friend. It was from Donna Winnick ('09), someone he met last year in drama class when he was a freshman.

"Connor, congratulations on getting the lead role!" Winnick said.

Bush was taken aback. He knew that the results for the Westview Theatre Company fall play *Fools* were going to be posted online after school, but he was unaware of his part, and if he had been cast at all. As a sophomore, this was a big step in his acting career.

Bush, who has been acting since fifth grade, started his onstage career when his teacher suggested he try out for the school musical, the famous Biblical story, *The Prodigal Son*.

"I tried out for the play, and I ended up getting the lead role," Bush said. "I really enjoyed being a part of the musical, so I kept acting afterwards."

Bush, also an avid soccer player on a club team, has always had to juggle his obligations with sports and acting, as he has been passionate about both ever since he performed in his first play in fifth grade.

"I had to go from one to the other; it was pretty exhausting," Bush said. "I had to miss rehearsals or practice, and with schoolwork, it was pretty tough. My mom would pick me up from soccer with a quick dinner in the car, and take me to the dress rehearsal just 30 minutes before it began."

As a freshman, Bush had roles in *The Tempest* and *Bye Bye Birdie*, performances that helped establish his name in the Westview Theatre Company.

Theatre Director Doug Smith said that he noticed Bush last year and that he gave the best audition for the role.

"I never thought twice about the fact that he was a sophomore," Smith said. "He has a natural talent for acting, and he is a hard worker. I think he also learned a lot from being in a lead role for a production."

Although Bush has been cast before at Westview, he had doubts that he would make the cut for this performance.

"I told them that I would have some special conflicts with soccer, and I knew I would have to miss some rehearsals," Bush said. "I wasn't sure if I'd get a significant part."

At the auditions, Bush read from parts with other actors hoping to be cast for the production.

"I started out reading various parts and Smith would mix it up based on what he saw in the chemistry between actors," Bush said. "It was really confusing because I didn't know what he was thinking or what notes he was taking, but I kept reading and doing my best."

When Bush was told he was cast as the main role in the play, a schoolteacher named Leon, Bush said he was excited to be given such a role as a sophomore.

"Actually, I was positive after auditions because there weren't that many guys," Bush said. "I knew I had a shot, but when I was told that I had gotten the lead role, and I was psyched because it was a lead and I'm a sophomore."

To accommodate the conflicts in Bush's schedule, the Theater Company scheduled special rehearsals.

Now that there are no more performances left for *Fools*, Bush said that having this lead role was a great experience and that performing live is what he loves most about what he does.

"Once I had the part, it was tough to prepare for it all and it was a lot of work," Bush said. "But performing in front of an audience is my favorite thing about acting and it's really satisfying because people like it. Being a part of *Fools* was just that."