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PAGE 7 Sports Agency

BYU athletes go professional



PAGE 11 Utah Film Industry

Tinseltown comes to Utah

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BYU grads make waves in



By CHARLES BEACHAM and
JEFF FINLEY

HOLLYWOOD—Brigham Taylor was a movie buff as a kid. He ate, slept and breathed film. But when he got to BYU his creativity made him something of an aimless student. At one point he left on academic probation, which he attributes to his lack of focus on any one area of study.

After a stint in community college, he returned to BYU with a newfound sense of direction. Studying humanities he created his own emphasis—in film.

Twenty years later, Taylor, the executive vice president of production for Walt Disney Studios, says that his choice to follow his dreams is one of the best decisions he's ever made.

"Figure out what you like and what really intrigues you and pursue that," Taylor said. "Because then, ultimately, it is less work; it's more pursuing a passion."

Like Taylor, many BYU grads are making big waves behind the scenes in the sink-or-swim entertainment business, an industry where catching a break isn't just about how hard you work and who you know—sometimes it just requires taking a chance.

Making it in the entertainment industry, or any line of work for that matter, takes a lot of determination. One thing these BYU grads agree on is that there is no one certain path that leads to success—everyone needs to find their own way.

For Taylor that meant paying his dues.

Though he now plays a creative role in big-name films like "The Pirates of the Caribbean" series, "Tron: Legacy" and the upcoming "Oz The Great and Powerful," Taylor had to work his way up from the bottom.

After graduating from BYU in 1992, Taylor, then a newlywed, took another two years to continue learning his trade by finding work on any and every

production he could—in any capacity he could.

"I found myself trying to figure out how to put myself in a place where I got meaningful experience with an industry I wanted to pursue," Taylor said, adding that whether he was working on storyboards or in craft services (that's the showbiz term for catering), no job was too small.

Eventually, the future studio executive decided the time was right to take the plunge. Leaving his wife and young daughter with family, he moved out to LA to try his luck in Tinseltown—and his luck was pretty good.

"After three months of nothing and getting ready to take a stopgap job of working for UPS, that's when I got my one and only interview and it ended up being here," Taylor said.

Taylor started at Disney as an assistant to a studio executive and has worked his way up to his current position.

Not everyone lands their first gig in Hollywood and stays with the same studio for 18 years. For Matt Davis, the executive director of post-production for Sony Pictures Animation, getting to his dream job took some time and self discovery.

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- Video interview with Brigham Taylor, executive vice-president of production for Disney
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HOLLYWOOD

BYU alumni share their experiences in the movie business

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"In some ways I'm doing exactly what I thought I would be doing when I was a teenager, but I didn't really know that this job existed," Davis said.

Admittedly, he was never much of an artist, but he always knew he wanted to make animated movies. Especially storytelling.

"Animation has always been the medium I loved the most," Davis said. "I had this ambition of wanting to make animated films, but not the art of it, so I went to BYU as a film major."

Davis now oversees development of all of Sony Pictures animated films. (You know, "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" and "Hotel Transylvania"? That was him.)

Though he's not the one sketching characters of writing the scripts, Davis' role is an essential one.

"I've learned that my job is to be able to say 'yes,'" Davis said. "We

want to make the best movies and I'm here to find a way to make that happen. I am not here to dictate to people. I am here to enable them to accomplish great things."

Before he ever got his hands on family-style blockbusters Davis had to find a job; he had to get someone to say "yes" to him. In 1997, when he graduated from BYU with a degree in film he was faced with a unique dilemma — how to get a job in animation without being able to draw.

"The company that was new was DreamWorks, and that was the place I wanted to target," Davis said. "They had a little bit of a 'we're doing new stuff in the industry feel,' and I said, 'That's the company I want to do! That's where I want to go, but I was never getting any calls from them.'"

So Davis took to cold calling and, after a few months that felt like millenia, he got a job as a production assistant.

"While I was at DreamWorks I benefited from being moved around a lot," Davis said. (Initially he thought he was being moved around because his managers weren't happy with him, but he later found out they loved his work so much they wanted him to help out in several departments.)

"I kept moving from place

to place until I discovered animation editing and that sort of changed things," Davis said. "At DreamWorks, editorial is where the movies are made."

Now the head of his own creative team, Davis recalls that the hardest part was taking that first step to get his foot in the door.

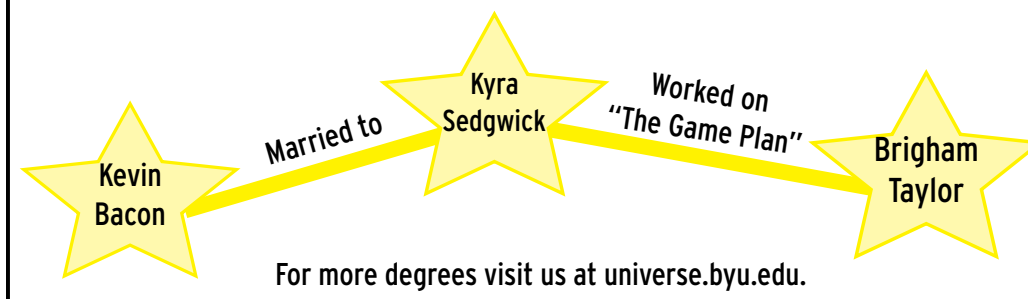
"People say it's not what you know but who you know in Hollywood, that might help for the very first job you get, but everyone is going to start off at the bottom," Davis said.

Entertainment attorney Kelly Crabb has represented some very big names (Michael Jordan, Jessica Alba and Ewan McGregor, just to name a few). But he recalls that his journey to the entertainment business wasn't as conventional as most. In fact, Crabb didn't get involved in the industry until well after his career as a lawyer had begun. In many ways, Crabb fell into the business.

Like many music-loving teens in the '60s, entertainment attorney Kelly Crabb had his own band and had big dreams of being a professional songwriter.

Crabb, a Spanish Fork native, came to BYU in the late '60s right in the midst of the Vietnam War. While at BYU, Crabb was called to serve in the Northern

BYU ALUMNI WORKING IN L.A. STAR IN "SIX DEGREES OF KEVIN BACON"



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Far East Mission, where he learned Japanese.

"When I read Northern Far East Mission, I thought I was going to Maine," Crabb said. "That's how cultured I was."

Crabb returned to BYU after his mission to finish his B.A. in Asian studies and international relations. He later received a master's degree in public administration. Throughout his studies, he never gave up on his music. In fact, he met his wife while forming the Provo-based singing band Just Us.

After graduation, he spent a few years helping the LDS Church redesign the missionary discussions, taking some of the first steps in what would eventually become "Preach My Gospel." One day Crabb, who was then in his 30s, got an interesting call

that resulted in an opportunity for him to attend Columbia Law School and emphasize in Japanese legal studies.

"I wanted to be a songwriter, but I wasn't getting any traction," Crabb said. "My job was great but it wasn't a career and this law school thing sounded great. So I went to law school and put down the guitar."

So Crabb, his wife and three kids moved to New York. A few years later, he completed his law degree and got a job working for Isaac Shapiro, a big-time international attorney who worked almost exclusively in Japanese transactions.

One day Shapiro called Crabb to his office and told him he had an assignment for him, Crabb's firm would be helping to organize Paul McCartney's 1989 world tour.

Crabb was surprised and elated.

"When I got a chance to become engaged in the entertainment industry, I took it," Crabb said. "When you pick up the phone and say, 'Hello, my name is Kelly Crabb and I represent Paul McCartney,' people think you are the smartest guy in the world."

Now, nearly a quarter of a century has passed and Crabb works exclusively in entertainment. Though he's not the one on stage, his song is still an inspirational one — from movie producer, to teacher, to astronaut, there's no substitute for hard work and passion.

"Go to your strength," Crabb said. "Go to that place you feel connected to and feel passionate about. I never lost my passion for music. If you're passionate about it, something will happen."



Photo by Mimi Davis-Taylor



Photo courtesy Justin Ahlmann

Utah's film industry

By JESSIE ALLEN

With the vast painted deserts, majestic mountains and breathtaking rock formations and canyons, Utah has been called the land of variety. However, the gorgeous landscape is just one of the many reasons why the lucrative film industry is growing in Utah.

As the industry increases with the addition of new film studios, employment opportunities in the industry are also increasing — and this is good news for BYU students.

The growing industry

According to Film Fund of Utah, the industry hauls in more than \$160 billion in wages every year through 2.9 million jobs. Over 296,000 of these jobs are in the core business of producing, marketing, manufacturing and distributing motion pictures and television shows.

There are projects in the works that will increase awareness and credibility of the film industry in Utah, such as the construction of two new film studios. One is the transformation of Granite High School in South Salt Lake to a movie and television production facility, and the other is the new site of Raleigh Studios, a major motion picture studio, in Quinn's Junction. Katy Wang, executive director of the Park City Film Series, said this motion adds to the locally grown initiative of the Utah film industry.

"It really is opening and expanding possibilities," Wang said. "Getting the film studio here was very controversial, but the industry is growing, and we want people to know and be aware of the art of film and appreciate it."

Granite High School in South Salt Lake is under construction to be remodeled into a film studio. Bryan Clifton, owner of Redman Movies and Stories, told Deseret News, "We're excited about working to revitalize the industry ... and provide opportunities where kids can get their first experience or internship on a movie."

What the industry offers

Scott Winn is a director and cinematographer based out of Orem. He has always loved photography and transformed that love into the art of film making. He recently finished a large mini series called "Dr. Fabulous." The mini-series featured celebrities such as Flavor Flav, Danny Trejo, Jon Gries, GloZell, Miranda Sings, Atoine Dodson, Wheezy Waiter and several others. The more projects he does, he only continues to feel the growth of the industry.

"I've only worked on a handful of full-scale productions, but there are more and more coming through Utah," Winn said.

Winn has benefited from filming in Utah. He could have filmed the mini-series in Los Angeles, Calif. but chose instead to film in Utah because of all the opportunities afforded to him.

"It made the most sense to film in LA because most of our cast was from there," Winn said. "But we ended up staying in Utah solely because of the amazing incentives and rewards from the Film Commission."

The Utah Film Commission offers the Motion Picture Incentive Program (MPIP), which provides "a post-performance financial incentive to production companies in order to help develop a strong motion picture industry presence in the state, that will contribute substantially to improving Utah's economy."

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Photo by Mimi Davis-Taylor

The "12 Dogs of Christmas: Great Puppy Rescue" was filmed in Wasatch County. The film industry continues to grow in Utah with the Utah Film Commission offering the Motion Picture Incentive Program.

Networking tips from BYU grads

Whether you want to work in movies, law, business or banking, being plugged in is a huge part of the game. As they say, "It's not what you know, but who you know."

Ben Schultz, music supervisor on Nickelodeon's "Yo Gabba Gabba," received his BA in philosophy from BYU in 1998. Bryce Randle, an editor at Disney TV Animation working on "Tron: Uprising," graduated from BYU in 2006 with a BA in media arts studies. Both Schultz and Randle said that networking has been an essential part of their success.

These BYU grads offer a few helpful tips on how to get connected with the right people.

1. How do I initiate a conversation with someone I've never talked to?

"I took a look at all of my contacts that I had and I created a spider web of who knew what people." — BR

"Find a mutual contact or a name to drop (LinkedIn suggested I should add

you)." — BR
"Cultivate your relationships and the faster you can do that, the better." — BS

2. How often and when should I make contact?

"Once a month is usually a good rule. It's always better to network when you have a job because people aren't threatened by you." — BR

3. What should I do if my contact isn't responding?

"If people aren't responding, they're slammed or they just don't want to. Move on and revisit them later." — BR

4. What qualities are most important in potential employees?

"A lot of it is likeability, if you aren't liked, you get weeded out." — BS
"Shyness is just an excuse for choosing to not be friendly." — BS
"Personality can make up for resume."

Ethics in the entertainment business

BYU graduates working in Hollywood face moral decisions

By CHARLES BEACHAM AND JEFF FINLEY

HOLLYWOOD — Making it in Hollywood, even off the red carpet, is tough.

For BYU grads working in Hollywood, knowing their values and deciding what they will and won't work on is something that happens before the first job.

"What BYU does so well is that they actually help provide that basis, that moral foundation" said Lance Stubblefield, assistant video editor on NBC's "Grimm." "There is an environment

there that fosters that kind of spirituality that you need."

Stubblefield was offered his first position as a full-fledged editor. There was just one problem — the show's content was well below his standards.

"I immediately get on MTV.com and start watching the pilot and my heart is sinking as I watch it," Stubblefield said. "It was the hardest decision that I have ever had to make professionally, because here was my good friend calling me wanting to give me this opportunity and I had to turn it down."

People generally respect a person's values and Hollywood is no exception, especially for those who have established a standard of what kind of projects they will work on.

"I've found that the industry is full of really good people," said Ben Schultz, music supervisor of the hip children's show "Yo Gabba Gabba." "I went to work with friends or relatives that, if they weren't members, they knew my values."

Bryce Randle, an editor on Disney's

"Tron: Uprising," takes a unique approach to addressing his religion in the workplace. Rather than making it about religion he treats his standards as a matter of professional preference.

"I treat (being a Mormon) more like a genre thing than a religious thing," Randle said.

Randle has found that the hustle and bustle of the movie business sometimes lends itself to odd hours, making it difficult for some to keep up with responsibilities outside of work.

"If I'm doing my calling and getting to church on Sunday, I've always had work."

Two years later, Stubblefield said that he still wonders what would have happened if he had chosen to take the job.

"I look back at it sometimes with regret because I am still waiting to get bumped up to editor and that was two-and-a-half years ago," he said, adding that though he's still waiting for his big break he knows he made the right decision ethically.

LIFE CALENDAR

JANUARY 22 - 28

TUESDAY New Horizons Orchestra
ages 40 and up, Jan. 16-Apr.
18, Brigham Young University

\$115 unvr.se/YbXpER

WEDNESDAY The Phantom of the Opera
7:30 p.m., deJong Concert
Hall, Harris Fine Arts Center

\$15-\$25 unvr.se/UxIVdA



TUESDAY Sundance Film Festival
6:30-8:30 p.m., Peery's Egyptian
Theater 2415 Washington
Blvd., Ogden, UT 84401

Free unvr.se/XeeNSF

WEDNESDAY Weir Was Here: Secret Rooms,
Doors and Windows
8:00 a.m., Harold B. Lee Library

Free unvr.se/YbYSeb

TUESDAY Jordan World Cicurs
7 p.m., Wed 4 and 7
p.m., UCCU Center

\$12-16 unvr.se/10hRzC9

WEDNESDAY Lovely Paper Rose Wreath
Leslie Nelson, 6-8 p.m.,
Thanksgiving Point, Lehi

\$50 unvr.se/OH0iau

TUESDAY EC Twins
11 p.m., The Star Bar, Sundance

Free unvr.se/131BIBS

SATURDAY Hi Ho Silver Oh, Charlyne
Yi, The Salt, The Sea, And
The Sun God, Nitwit All day,
Muse Music Cafe, Provo

Free unvr.se/10mLJAK

TUESDAY Van Gogh to Play Dough
10-11 a.m., BYU Museum of Art

Free unvr.se/WL4N3h

MONDAY Four Generations of Fairbanks
Art 7 p.m., Orem Public Library

Free unvr.se/Va9ppn

TUESDAY Emeriti Winter Activity
11-2 p.m., Hinckley Center

\$15 unvr.se/10CoPFm

MONDAY An Evening with Mark Ballas
7:30 p.m., The Covey
Center for the Arts

\$20-40 unvr.se/OGXLgl