

MEDIA RELEASE



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Animation Legends Speak at Laguna College Lecture Series

Students, faculty and staff enjoyed the continuing Animation Lecture Series at Laguna College of Art & Design with engaging visits from industry legends that included famed voice actors Janet Waldo and Corey Burton, and renowned Disney designer and director Chris Buck.

Excitement was running high on November 13 as attendees gathered to hear about the art of creating characters through voice from Janet Waldo and Corey Burton. Janet is recognized as the voice of Judy Jetson, Josie of Josie and the Pussycats, Penelope Pitstop, Fred Flintstone's Mother In Law, Radio's Corliss Archer, I Love Lucy's Peggy Dawson and dozens more. Corey provides the voices for Ludwig Von Drake, Captain Hook, Cad Bane in Clone Wars, Mole in Disney's feature Atlantis, Mr. Harvey Fenner in Disney's The Princess and the Frog plus hundreds of familiar movie trailers and commercials. During this fascinating two hour lecture, Ms. Waldo talked about her work in film, radio, television and theater and gave interesting tips in how to approach acting for characters in all venues. Mr. Burton added to the fun with his stories of recreating some of the world's most famous voices as well as creating dozens of new ones for today's audiences. He also spoke eloquently about the technical side of sound recording utilizing extraordinary microphones and equipment.

"It was thrilling to watch three different generations converge in this forum, spellbound, as these two top acting talents in the industry described their history, their philosophy of acting and their hilarious 'war stories' compiled from their work giving voice to the characters we all know and love," said lecture series coordinator and faculty member David Pruiksmas. "All felt as though they came away with a better understanding of the art of character voice, and it was truly an honor to have these two veterans visit our campus."

On December 4, the lecture series continued with guest speaker Chris Buck famed animator, designer, storyboard artist and director of Disney's *Tarzan* and Sony's *Surf's Up*. During his two hour visit, Mr. Buck captivated students and faculty alike with a detailed look back at his long career, a sharing of his animation philosophy and a hint at what projects he is currently developing. This was a rare opportunity to hear from one of the industry's most respected and influential talents as he shared, with rare candor and intimacy, his thoughts on the similarities and differences of approach in creating traditional and computer generated animated features. Buck has been a major creative force in the world of animation for more than two decades, and made his feature-directing debut with Disney's blockbuster animated feature *Tarzan*. He began his career with Disney in 1978, and his impressive credits include various artistic positions on *The Fox and The Hound*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Rescuers Down Under*, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, *Pocahontas*, as well as several joint efforts with Tim Burton.

Pruiksmas continued, "This is part of an ongoing series of noteworthy people from many different facets of the animation and film industry that I intend to invite to speak at LCAD in the future to help enlighten and inspire the students with the perspective that only a working professional can. Janet, Corey and Chris proved to be a powerful and motivating experience for all who attended, and this is just the beginning."

The Animation major at LCAD has been carefully designed to meet the evolving needs of the entertainment industry and to exceed the industry's standards. It is one of the finest, fully accredited programs in the region. In addition to teaching a mastery of digital technologies, the program is distinguished by requiring a solid grounding in traditional skills as well as promoting the development of individual artistic skills and enhancing the creative imagination. The small, focused environment affords students instruction that is similar to a one-on-one mentoring program. Guest lecturers and mentors from the industry complement coursework by providing relevant insight.

Images:

Janet Waldo with Animation student Lauren Hodgkin

Chris Buck with Professor David Pruiksma

Founded on Classical Drawing Skills, Fueled by Creative Energy, and Dedicated to Excellence

Laguna College of Art & Design is a private, not-for-profit college where outstanding artist-educators, visual arts programs, state-of-the-art facilities, and year-round exhibitions give fresh vision to Laguna's extraordinary legacy in the visual arts. Founded in 1961, the college educates artists at all stages of their creative careers, offering Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Drawing and Painting, Graphic Design, Illustration, Game Art and Animation, and a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting.

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