



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Robert Kurtzman demo; Eli Livingston sculpting; Kurtzman creatures; guests Josh Turi, Mike Melillo and Todd Debrececi



Photos courtesy of CONstruct

Effects Artists Unite at CONstruct

The make-up/creature effects community, including several East Coast artists, assembled May 30-31 for CONstruct, a weekend of workshops, demos and panels held at The Compleat Sculptor in New York's SoHo district. The nearly two dozen guests included Robert Kurtzman, Jordy Schell, Todd Debrececi, Anthony Giordano, Tom McLaughlin and Mike Melillo, to name a few.

CONstruct is the brainchild of Compleat Sculptor owner Marc Fields and organizer Alyssa Smith, who believed the time had come for a gathering of local professionals involved in sculpting, molding and casting. "A lot of these people, who are big in the industry, have been clients for years," says Fields, "so it seemed like a no-brainer!"

"We talked about numbers, and although it took quite a bit of time and energy to prep the event, the store was already here, so that part was easy. It wasn't really about making money; it was all about the event and getting it going. If everything comes out well and we didn't take too much of a loss, or even made a bit of money, it's something that would be viable for the future."

The CONstruct panels covered a wide range of topics, from costuming, creature design and crowd funding to prop making, creature-suit fabrication and body painting. A full schedule of demonstrations concentrated on working with silicone, resins, clay and thermoplastics. And a series of moderately priced workshops dealt with such popular topics as moldmaking/casting, sculpting/molding silicone transfer pieces and sculpting in miniature. There was even an artists' alley for industry professionals exhibiting and selling their wares.

With the first CONstruct declared a hit by the local effects community, will there be a follow-up at some point in the future?

"We had some ups and downs," notes Fields, "and it's a lot of work, so would I want to do it every week? No. Would I be open to doing a couple of different things in different years? Yeah, and maybe even in different industries. This is just the make-up industry, but there are other sides to it. We cater to different media, so we could do a stone-carving weekend or a wood-carving weekend. And a lot of stuff we do now is culinary, so that could be an interesting thing to do too. I deal with a lot of chocolatiers and cake people and they're all sculpting, so I would say this has certainly not slaked my appetite."

"Just putting some of these people in the same room together; when you think about all the networking opportunities between the different panels and workshops; that alone is why I wanted to do this in the first place!"

—Joe Nazzaro

Bill Could Alter FDA Oversight on Cosmetics

Make-up artists who want to stock their kits with safer products may get some help on the federal level. In April, California senator Diane Feinstein and Maine senator Susan Collins jointly introduced legislation that would give the Food and Drug Administration greater oversight of the ingredients manufacturers use in cosmetics and personal-care products.

Dubbed the Personal Care Products Safety Act, the bill is designed to amend and update the law initially passed in 1938 that gave the FDA jurisdiction over the safety of food, drugs and cosmetics.

The Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act has not changed significantly since 1938, according to Lisa Powers, executive vice president of public affairs and communications for the Personal Care Products Council, which represents the personal care and cosmetic industry at the federal, state and local levels.

"While we believe our products are the safest category that FDA regulates, we also believe well-crafted, science-based reforms will enhance the industry's ability to innovate and further strengthen consumer confidence in the products they trust and use every day," said Powers.

Continued on page 22



First place make-up by Cheryl Ann Lipstreu



Second place make-up by David Gilmore



Third place make-up by Johannes Stötter



FROM TOP: Make-up artist Beverly Jo Pryor (AT RIGHT) with agent Susan Wright, actress Barbara Rosenblat with Josh Turi



Body Fine Art photos by John K. Goodwin, courtesy of the Body Fine Art Competition. Designing Women photos courtesy of Designing Women Awards

Art in Motion

Cheryl Ann Lipstreu Wins Premiere Body Fine Art Competition

The first-ever Body Fine Art Competition, held May 16 at The Springs restaurant in Los Angeles, couldn't have gone better for show curator Nicolette Spear.

"The event was incredible," she said via email. "Things moved like a well-oiled machine, all the artists were thrilled and the audience was enthralled with the beautiful artwork and performances."

Spear estimates that 800 people attended; 18 body painters competed for cash and prizes. Cheryl Ann Lipstreu of Belews Creek, N.C. won first place; David Gilmore of Los Angeles and Johannes Stötter of Tyrol, Italy came in second and third, respectively. Lipstreu won a \$5,000 grand prize. Gilmore received \$2,000 in make-up supplies from Jest Paint, Wolfe Face Art & FX and Kryolan Professional Make-up; Stötter won a Grex airbrush. European Body Art donated all the airbrush make-up for the competition; Skin City and MEL Products were also event sponsors.

This is the first time a body-painting

Continued on page 22

DESIGNING WOMEN HONORS PRYOR, PARIS AND 'ORANGE' TEAM

Designing Women, the annual awards ceremony sponsored by New York Women in Film & Television, was held May 28 in New York City. This year's honorees included veteran make-up artist Beverly Jo Pryor; costume designer Ann Roth; hairstylist Francesca Paris; and the costume, make-up and hair design team of *Orange is the New Black*.

Pryor, whose most recent credits include *Selma*, *Empire* and *Lee Daniels' The Butler*, told *Make-Up Artist* magazine, "I am completely honored to be recognized by the NYWIFT. It was a great experience to be brought from behind the scenes to the limelight."

For Josh Turi, the prosthetic make-up department head for *Orange is the New Black*, accepting the *Variety* Ensemble Award as part of a virtually all-women ensemble was an interesting experience. "I said, 'Aren't you ... women ... in film?'" he jokingly recalled, "and they said, 'Yeah, but it's cool, it's for the ensemble!' All kidding aside, it was cool to be part of it."

Presenters for the ensemble award included *Orange is the New Black* stars Kate Mulgrew (*Red*), Uzo Aduba (*Crazy Eyes*) and Barbara Rosenblat (*Miss Rosa*). As Turi recalled, "When Barbara came up, she gave a speech about the make-up and a lot of it was about my work, so that was really humbling. I felt really honored to be part of the New York Women in Television, because they're an amazing group."

"To me, it was meaningful that NYWIFT was bestowing an ensemble award to the make-up and hair and wardrobe departments of *Orange is the New Black*," added the show's make-up department head, Michal Bigger, who was shooting in Atlanta and unable to attend.

"By recognizing the work of every make-up artist who worked on the three seasons of the show, the event was making the point that 'It takes a village,' as they say. I'm proud of every member of the extended team, and grateful for all the hard work and creativity that each artist brought to work each day. NYWIFT should be applauded for including a *Variety* Ensemble Award in their annual show, as that really makes the point that filmmaking is a communal affair."

—Joe Nazzaro