

# Hollywood CPR

## YOUTH TRAINING PROGRAM AND NONPROFIT PROPHOUSE



Laura Peterson and Kevin Considine show off school and store set dressing at Hollywood CPR.

Hollywood CPR founder Kevin Considine (Local 44) is a former set dresser and propman whose mother, Toby, was a successful set decorator. When illness sidelined her career, Kevin became acutely aware that her expertise and body of knowledge was going to waste. One of the reasons he founded Hollywood CPR was to provide a way for this kind of knowledge to be passed on by providing teaching opportunities, and using industry insiders to do it.

Considine is joined in running the program by Laura Peterson, an expert in education and in running not-for-profit public service organizations. They are making great progress, thanks to an active fundraising effort with individual donations, grants, support from West Los Angeles College and Workplace Hollywood and participation from Local 44 and other IATSE locals.

Hollywood Cinema Production Resources is a combination prop and set dressing recycling plant and "art department training facility" serving disadvantaged youths ages fifteen to twenty-one, in the Los Angeles area. The prophouse specializes in school and store dressing, but has a smattering of all kinds of furniture and small items. They have a good rapport with archivists and property managers from the studios, who donate leftover raw materials, set pieces and props, such as a large conference table built for HBO's *PATH TO WAR* [decorated by SDSA member Florence Fellman]. The prophouse is stocked and maintained by the students, with the help of a manager/teacher, Ryan Cassidy (Local 44), and the rental fees directly support the education programs.



Conference table used for HBO's *PATH TO WAR*. Photo by Doug Hyun.

Now at the end of the second year of the Entertainment Arts Training Program, they have had twelve union industry pro's as teachers, who are in turn, mentored by professors of Industrial Arts from Cal State Northridge. Thanks to an agreement with eight IATSE locals, teachers are paid and even get union benefits for their time. To form the curriculum, Considine and Peterson meet with the unions, go to the workshops and studios in Hollywood to find out what skills are actually (and will be) needed in the workplace. "We are not training in a vacuum," said Considine. "We are listening. We want people in the industry to share their knowledge,"

There is a moldmaking shop for both architectural and creature applications. Also offered are scenic and set painting, plan and blueprint reading, drafting skills, grip skills, special effects, and propmaking. Each class incorporates making a project, such as a crime scene set for the police to train in, or a parade float or a set for a school play. None of these projects are contracted for profit.

The curriculum is 18 months long, with two semesters at the facility and one in the field. Teachers check up on the students during their internship. Interns are all paid by Hollywood CPR; and the program spends a lot of time grooming the students in basic workplace skills, such as showing up on time, ready to work, so that internship mentors will not be faced with rudimentary training. They also impart an understanding of the importance and history of unions in Hollywood.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR SDSA MEMBERS TO HELP THE HOLLYWOOD CPR PROJECTS:

- Donate your old reference magazines and books
- Convince your studio or production chief to donate leftover props and dressing to Hollywood CPR's prophouse
- Hollywood CPR will hold a tag sale of any show's set dressing leftovers at their facility if a portion of the proceeds is donated back
- Rent set dressing at Hollywood CPR's prophouse: not only will you benefit their program, but also they will donate a portion of your rental proceeds back to the SDSA!
- Volunteer to assist in teaching a class- call Kevin Considine or Laura Peterson for details
- Consider mentoring an intern from Hollywood CPR



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