

10,000 Maniacs' Bassist Takes Over As Technical Director At JCC Theatre

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By MICHAEL ZABRODSKY

He is used to sharing center stage, and now he will go behind it.

Steve Gustafson, bassist for **10,000 Maniacs**, recently took over as technical director at Jamestown Community College's Scharmann Theatre.

It's a job that he always had wanted, but because of the band's scheduling commitments, he could not take it.

"I actually applied for this job about four years ago. I was looking for a part-time job because I was home quite a bit, sitting on my backside. I wanted to contribute to the budget in our house a little bit more," he said.

He said after guitarist Rob Buck died in December 2000, the band took two years off and he decided to look for some employment. He had looked at being an on-air personality at some radio stations, but as he was browsing through the want ads one day, he noticed the JCC position was open again. Recently, the band had reformed and added a new guitarist Jeff Ericson and new singer Oskar Saville, and were doing weekend "soft ticket" shows.

In addition to his job, he will also teach one class.

In the fall semester, he is scheduled to teach Stagecraft from 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

In the class students will gain a working knowledge of the tools, equipment, language and procedures used in set construction. Construction documents and rigging, as well as practical application, are given special consideration, according to the school's course description.

During the class, students will be also helping design the set for the fall musical.

"We are going to break down into the different parts of the organization within a theater, that take care of different aspects of production," he said.

He said the students in the class have varied backgrounds and he is eager to begin working with them. "They will be learning the basics of set design. When I got hired, there was not much going on, so I spent the entire summer inventorying everything and acclimating myself to the theater and how it works — reading about the lighting board and how



STEVE GUSTAFSON

to do cues," Gustafson said.

Whether it's a slide show, or student orientation, Gustafson is responsible for every event that happens in the Theatre. "I like the challenge of putting on shows. That's one of the most exciting things about being in a band too. Besides the applause at the end of the night, it's all about the gig. I like the idea of the mystery and the magic of theater," he said.

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