

# LIVING

Patty Amador | Features Editor | 427.6981



Activists see opening for poverty issue. Page D8



Brad Zweerink/Daily Republic photos

Solano Community College theater stagecraft student Charlie Snow has his makeup touched up as part of a class demonstration on Wednesday.



Matt Robinson will be a zombie at SCT's Halloween Spooktacular.

# FEARfactor

## Solano College Theatre debuts its haunted house

"When you are doing scars, you have to know how it happened. Which way the blood drops and how the flesh is torn back."

— BJ BANDY, MAKEUP ARTIST

BY AMY MAGINNIS-HONEY  
DAILY REPUBLIC

In a matter of minutes, Matt Robinson went from a youthful college student to the walking dead.

He had BJ Bandy, a Solano Community College instructor and costume and makeup designer to thank for the transformation.

Robinson is one of about two dozen SCC Actor Training Program students who will bring out the fear factor at the program's haunted house Thursday and Friday evenings.

"We have been kicking around the idea of some general annual event for the theater program and the community," said Chris Guptill managing director of Solano College Theatre. "Something students

could take on as their own."

Until 2007, the city of Fairfield hosted an annual haunted house at the Fairfield Center for the Creative Arts.

"I thought it would be a great project for my stagecraft students," he said. "It encompasses almost every aspect of theater, from design to producing and directing to stage managing.

A chat with an official in Suisun City's building department revealed the three-story Victorian Lawler House could be used.

"When you stand outside the building, it is the haunted mansion," Guptill said.

The city of Fairfield lent and leased the program many of its set pieces.

The college's stage makeup class will transform the students into

zombies and the like.

Students from Buckingham Charter Magnet High School Service Corps, Vacaville High School and Solano Youth Theatre's Teen Touring Company are also lending a hand.

### The magic of makeup

On a recent day, Bandy showed the stagecraft students what they could become, with the help of some makeup and some basic knowledge on how to use latex and spirit gum to their advantage.

Charlie Snow was the first "victim." He got an airbrushing in blue over his face. Bandy applied it with an air compressor.

"It tends to be cold," she warned Snow before spraying him.

"Always let your 'victim' know if they raise their hands, that means stop," Bandy said.

A few more sprays and Snow did-

n't resemble his former self.

"It's like getting blasted with 20 mph winds and your body reacts by closing off your airwaves," Snow said.

"It's really simple. It's really easy. It's a nice blue color," Bandy said.

"Not at all Smurf-like," Guptill interjected.

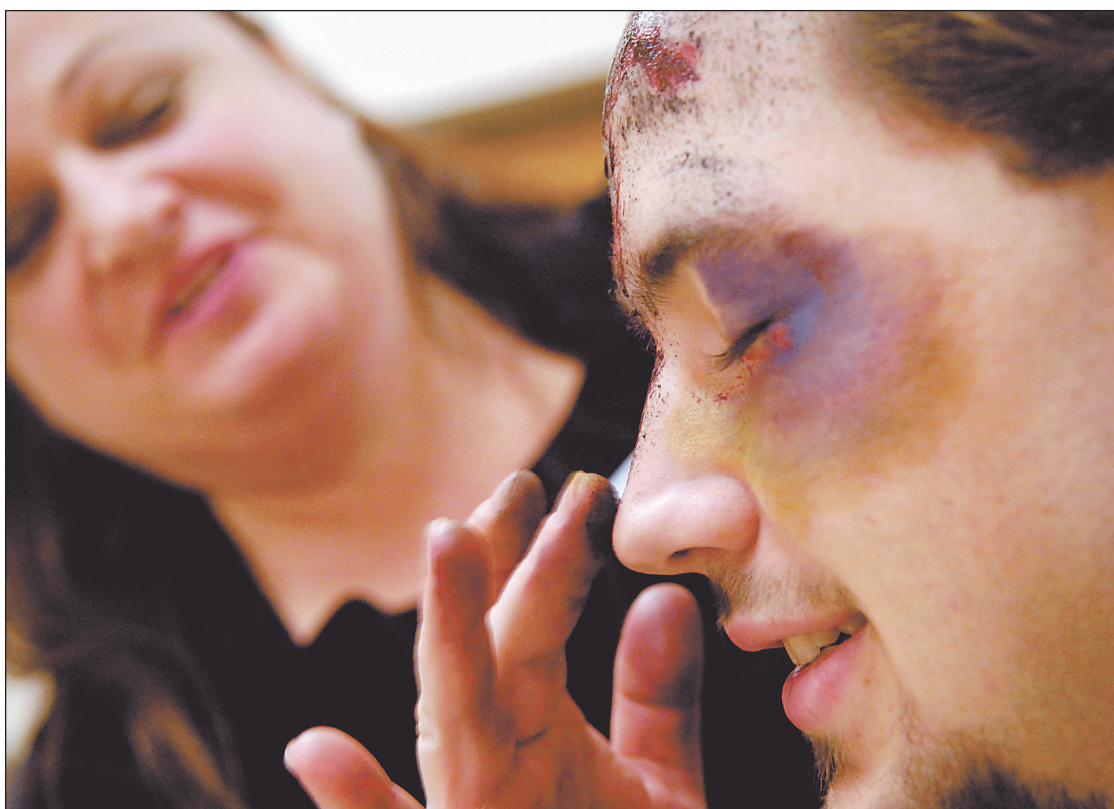
Robinson chuckled at Snow. "I'm going to put the latex on him," Bandy said, before calling Robinson forward.

She spent more than 30 minutes applying spirit gum, tissue, cotton balls, latex and an array of colors to Robinson.

"When you are doing scars, you have to know how it happened. Which way the blood drops and how the flesh is torn back," Bandy said.

After he was coated with a cabernet color paint, Robinson's scar on

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Jake Saenz, above, makes a skull based on singer Amy Winehouse as part of his Theater III Stagecraft class at Solano Community College.

Student Michael Cutsinger appears to have bruises and cuts on his face after being worked on by theater instructor BJ Bandy.