

The High Desert

# PALETTE

April 2021, Vol. 1, No. 8

**EXCLUSIVE**

The Storyteller  
Pg 6.



**Did you  
Know?**

Periaktoi Pg. 12

**Brendon  
Thorpe**

Engineer and  
Musician Pg. 18

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# WELCOME TO

## *The High Desert Palette*

April, 2021  
Vol. 1 No. 8

**W**illcox is full of creative artists and craftspeople. Almost any art media you can imagine – and maybe some you might not – are represented. People of all ages, inspired by their own imaginations and by the natural beauty and heritage of this unique corner of Arizona, are creating extraordinary and unique art.

*The High Desert Palette* will introduce you to these artists and their work. We'll have original articles, interviews with area creatives, photographs, visual art, a calendar of events – to bring fascinating creatives and their output to you.

If you're a creative yourself, or if you admire the work they produce, *The High Desert Palette* is for you.

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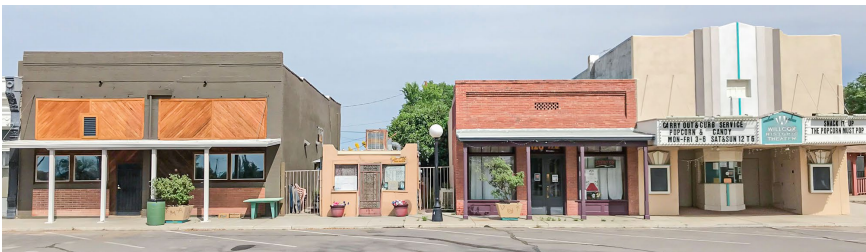
### WRITERS

Joshua Allred, Peter Spitzer

### CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jill Dredge, Ralf Score, Peter Spitzer

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 6. **Ralph Score**

The Storyteller

## 12. **Did You Know?**

Periaktoi

## 18. **Brendon Thorpe**

Engineer and Musician

## 21. **Art Look**

Water Color Paintings by Helen Frazee

## 24. **Coming Soon...**

Upcoming Events in the Community

## 26. **Past Relations**

Short Written Contribution by Annabeth Cameron

## 30. **Support the Arts**

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### On the Cover -

Ralph Score

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**Paint Night**

Saturday, April 24th @6pm \* The Palace

**Kids Art Club**

Friday, May 7th @4pm \* The Palace

**Brown-Bag History Speech**

Thursday, May 13th @12pm \* The Palace





## RALPH SCORE

### The Storyteller

By Peter Spitzer

---

#### Young Shakespeare

Ralph Score wanted to tell stories, he just might not have realized at first. "I saw a stop motion animation with construction paper; black and white. I saw that and I had to try something like that. That was at eight. That's what got me interested."

So, like many greats, he started in play, staging elaborate plays and productions all in his front yard. He weaved great epics and dramas, with everything he

could get his hands on. "Yeah, these weren't little, they were like Sampson with these big columns made out of cardboard boxes, full costume and everything."

Ralph kept this creativity and brought it with him into high school, resulting in his being invited to a senior film project his junior year. Excited by this and hungry for more he enrolled in Jerry Carrie's film class his next year. "I bought my first camera and editor and everything with my first project being a stop motion film on how to make a chicken sandwich."

#### Labor of Love

Filming anything can take time. He could spend from one hour to days shooting something. That's only half the process though, in

some cases maybe only a quarter. Editing a piece of work takes time, a lot of time, and no one knows that better than Ralph Score. "Right now I'm editing a B.B. King video and just setting it up to work on took eight hours. Then it took me three hours to do the first three lines."

This isn't without reason, though. When Ralph edits something he makes sure he likes it. When he likes it, so will everyone else. "I really cut my teeth at the video editing place I used to work at because the building had no insurance, so somebody had to be there round clock and there were only three of us. On the nights I would stay overnight, I had access to an editing facility and I would just take a pop song I liked and make a music video

“ We wanted to make a movie, like a real blockbuster, but we were told we needed to make a movie first to show what we could do so that's where Planet of the Killer Robots came in

of it storyboarding these old commercials. I'd then shoot myself and cut the video just to get a sense of storytelling, cause that's all it really is: storytelling.”

So, unsurprisingly, a few jobs later, Ralph got an interesting proposition from a friend.

"We wanted to make a movie, like a real blockbuster, but we were told we needed to make a movie first to show what we could do, so that's where

*Planet of the Killer Robots came in."*

Being passionate about a project can make all the difference but that doesn't make it easy. "We'd get so excited when pitching it. 'This happens and after that this happens!' When you're



passionate it's all you will talk about, but when making a movie, you need two things: real actors and food. You're usually in a field for ten hours when you planned for six, so people need to eat. You also gotta handle payment and budget etcetera. Yeah, movies aren't easy," Ralph ended with a chuckle.

### Jack of All Trades, Master of One

From the start, Ralph has been involved in all sides of production: behind the camera, in front of the camera, directing, editing, lighting, sound, and a hundred other jobs that are involved in everything he's done. "On our movie, *Planet of The Killer Robots*, I was the co-producer, director of photography, camera operator,

organized the score, did the 3D effects, and edited it."

So, having done it all, what does he enjoy the most? "It's gotta be behind the camera. I love photography and if I could just shoot all day I'd be happy."

Despite hearing what his favorite medium was, I wouldn't call Ralph a photographer, and even after the interview, I struggled to put him under a single title that could categorize everything he's done, until I listened to the interview again. Ralph had been telling me what he was the whole interview without me realizing. He's a storyteller. From lighting a live performance to filming how to make a sandwich, Ralph has consistently been telling stories

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for years. He even teaches a class on it here at WTA from time to time. When ending Ralph had two things to say, "First, when editing, it's all about file management. It can make or break a project and will make your life so much easier. It will help you stay in that creative flow without having to look for a specific scene buried in hours of unnamed footage. [Second] when looking to boost creativity, write, rewrite, and rewrite some more. Eventually, you'll find the story you want to tell."



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***Jam Session***

1st and 3rd Wednesdays @2pm \* The Palace

***Creative Youth Productions***

Wednesdays @ 4:00pm \* The Palace





# DID YOU KNOW?

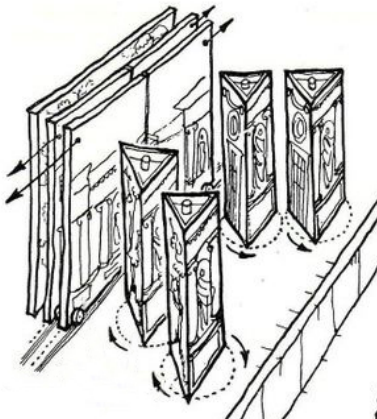
## Periaktoi

By Joshua Allred

Theater has come a long way since its start and has changed considerably, but we nod to Greek culture for its point of origin. The same is true for periaktoi.



By Gts-tg - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=64833341>



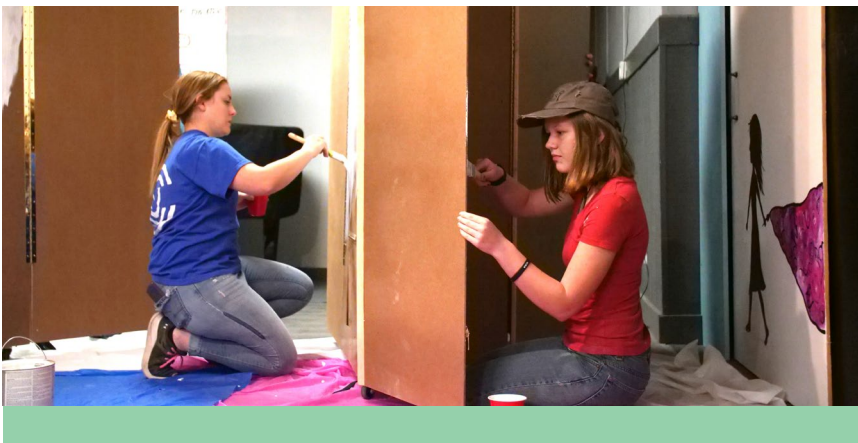
Pictured above and to the left as three-faced triangular prisms, periaktoi were theatrical devices designed for quick and seamless scene changes. Above is an example of what a Greek theater is thought to have used. The periaktoi are stationary and simple in practice. The left depicts Renaissance technique, incorporating periaktoi into a set that gives the illusion of depth to the scene and allows actors to perform within the periaktoi rather than in front of them.





Periaktoi retain their relevance and are still used in theater today. Willcox Theater and Arts' own Creative Youth Productions used variations of periaktoi in their most recent performance, *Ho Ho Ho! The Santa Claus Chronicles* (written by Pat Cook, and produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Denver, Colorado). That particular set incorporated two periaktoi. Both incorporated flaps on each of its three faces that could be extended to accommodate larger scenery.

Each image displayed on this page highlights the set production of both periaktoi. The physical woodworking and crafting for the periaktoi was contributed by a long-time volunteer and they were painted by the participants of Creative Youth Productions with the help of their mentors, Amanda Berger, Isaac Garay, and Genevieve Landman.



Once finished, they were put to use during the showings of *Ho Ho Ho! The Santa Claus Chronicles* in The Palace of Art and Theater. Pictured below are members of Creative Youth Productions during live performances and three scene changes achieved with their periakttoi!





 Cheryl McLaughlin

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# Contributor Guidelines

*The High Desert Palette* welcomes contributions that highlight creativity and creative people in Southeastern Arizona. We seek to explore the creative impulse, showcase creative product and inspire creatives in all fields. Original contributions in artistic and/or creative fields and articles or feature interviews with the people who create them will be accepted. Let us know of creative individuals we might highlight in future issues.

Please contact *The High Desert Palette* at 520-766-3335 or willcoxtheater@gmail.com to discuss your ideas.

The High Desert

**PALETTE**



STAGE TO CINEMA



**Jonas  
Kauffmann**

Friday  
Sep. 18th @2:30pm  
Saturday  
Sep. 19th @6:30pm



**The Red  
Shoes**

Friday  
Oct. 9th @2:30pm  
Saturday  
Oct. 10th @6:30pm



**Cinderella**

Friday  
March 19th @2:30pm  
Saturday  
March 20th @6:30pm



**Wise  
Children**

Friday  
April 15th @2:30pm  
Saturday  
April 16th @2:30pm



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## ***BRENDAN THORPE***

### **Engineer and Musician**

---

Brendan has been playing the saxophone and piano for over 36 years, and has been featured in numerous bands and organizations, including rock bands, big bands, jazz combos, and, yes, even country bands. Brendan Thorpe is a native of Utah in the Greater Salt Lake area. As a youth, he began writing music, performing with the local Jazz Band, and playing gigs with various rock bands. As he continued in his higher educational pursuits, he managed to maintain a challenging parallel course of action, studying both civil

engineering and music theory at the University of Utah. Over twenty years later, he still practices as a professional engineer, and continues to expand his influence in the local entertainment and music business. When he is not designing public infrastructure, you can find him in the studio, writing and producing, and of course doing what he loves most, performing live at various venues and events.

Brendan has continued a successful parallel career in the professional engineering world, and as a solo performing artist, showcasing his talents and skills as an accomplished sax man. Although Brendan's roots are securely based in the traditional jazz genre, he has unmistakably broadened and

## Brendan Thorpe March Set Lists

### Set 1

- The Serenade
- Paisley
- Starlight
- Green Arrow
- Without You
- Blue Chip
- Lullaby for a Rainy Night
- Let Us Remember

### Set 2

- The Bright Side
- New York State of Mind
- Love is on the Way
- Nothing Redacted
- Endless Love
- How Sweet it is to be Loved by You
- Stand By Me
- Winter's Tale
- Until Then

Listed songs subject to change

expanded his musical presence. His performances are full of modern instrumentation, big electric base lines, and straightforward rhythms. In addition to his solo

accomplishments, Brendan also enjoys performing with the local band, FLASHBACK. Brendan is featured on a number of familiar tunes ranging from the 50s to current time period.



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**Retro Rewind**

Thursday April 15th @1pm \* The Palace

**Shadowbox Jewelry**

Sunday April 18th @1pm \* The Palace

**Open Mic Night**

Thursday April 22nd @ 6:30pm \* The Palace





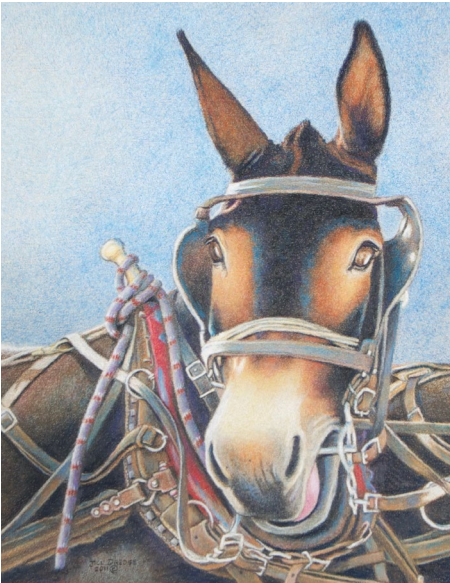
## ART LOOK

Featured are scratchboard and colored pencil artworks by Jill Dredge

I have created art all my life. I was awarded an art scholarship to the University of Arizona and continued my education with art workshops over the years. I've exhibited in international and juried exhibitions, had a one-man show, and won numerous awards. My art is in museum, corporate, and international collections. I've worked in most art mediums, but mostly colored pencil and lately I'm loving scratchboard. I currently have originals and prints for sale at the Stronghold Cafe in Sunsites, the Cowboy Way in Benson, Endeavor Gallery in Benson, and a Splash of Copper in Globe. I also have an online shop at <http://www.jilldredge.etsy.com>. You can contact me at my email at [jill.dredge44@yahoo.com](mailto:jill.dredge44@yahoo.com).

- Jill Dredge











# COMING SOON!

---

## *April*

---

Retro Rewind - Angel and the Badman, 15

Stage to Cinema - Wise Children, 15-16

Live on Stage - Creative Youth Productions, 16-17

Shadowbox Jewelry, 18

Arizona Science Center Workshop, 23

Paint Night, 24

## *May*

---

Kids Art Club, 7, 10

Brown Bag History Speech - Cattle Capital of the World 13

Paint Night, 22



***Kilted Spirit***

Saturday  
January 30th  
@7pm



***Acoustic  
Eidolon***

Friday  
March 19th  
@7pm



***Brendon  
Thorpe***

Saturday  
April 10th  
@7pm



***Creative  
Youth  
Productions***

April 16th  
@6pm

April 17th  
@2pm



GUEST ARTISTS SEASON 2020 - 2021

*Past Relations* is a short piece contributed by a community youth, Annabeth Cameron. We invite any and all to contribute similar short form written works to be highlighted in our monthly issues of the *HDP*! These can range anywhere from flash fiction to poetry! The word count should not exceed 650 words. Feel free to include an original artwork with your piece!

## **PAST RELATIONS**

**Written By  
Annabeth Cameron**

---

"Daddy, Daddy look! I am the strongest knight in the kingdom!" a young girl with chocolate hair and olive skin yelled, waving around a wooden sword.

"Well then, can I count on you to save me?" her father, a man who looked nothing like his daughter, with his pale skin and blonde hair asked, a smile on his face.

"Save you from what?" the little girl asked, eyebrows knotted together in confusion.

"Why, THE TICKLE MONSTER!!!" her father yelled before proceeding to chase her around the castle that they lived in, the girl's shrill screeches echoing throughout.

"Edmund, don't encourage her." Her mother, the queen, scolded

her husband, a frown riddled across her face.

"Dear, let her have a bit of fun. She's only 5." Edmund said, catching his breath.

"Exactly. We only have thirteen years until she is to receive the kingdom," she countered, tucking a dark chocolate strand of hair behind her ear.

"And only thirteen years of childhood left. Let her enjoy it," Edmund replied, his breathing becoming less labored.

"All right, but when our kingdom is in ruins...." Abigail started, before being cut off by her husband.

"I'll blame it on being a kid." Edmund promised, a kind smile on his face.

"Have your fun today, but tomorrow, she becomes a princess," the queen stated, before walking away to take care of her own responsibilities.

"Amity, time to wake up! You have a big day ahead," Abigail greeted, softly shaking her

sleeping daughter. Amity yawned, rubbed her eyes, and then greeted her mother.

"Hi, mommy. Are you going to play knights and dragons with me today? You can be the dragon."

"No-" the queen began.

"Of course, you could always be the knight. I'll be the dragon," she continued, longing to play with her mother.

"Let me finish. You are aware of the," Abigail paused for a moment, mentally searching for the right words. "Games you and your father play?"

"Yeah, what about them?" Amity asked.

"Well, I thought it was time you learned to be a proper princess," Abigail stated, a smile gracing her lips.

"I'd rather be a knight, but thanks for the offer!" Amity said, clearly oblivious to the situation.

"Dear, it wasn't an offer," the queen said, losing her patience.

"What do you mean?" Amity asked.

"Well, don't you want to be like Mommy?" Abigail tried again.

"I don't know..." Amity began.

"Dear, I love you, but you are to receive the kingdom in thirteen years. You must be ready." Abigail said, giving her daughter a look.

"All right, I can pretend to be a princess today." Amity said with a sigh.

"That is all I ask." The queen said, letting out a sigh of relief.

You wanted to know my backstory? Fine. Here it is. My name is Amity. I'm a princess, but I've always wanted to be normal. My mother did not like that, so she forced me to act like a "proper princess," but it's the worst. Anyways, if you want to know more about me, I'll be writing a book about my life. If you want to read it, let me know!

*Request more from Amity by  
emailing [willcoxtheater.com](mailto:willcoxtheater.com)*

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