

Who needs Kevin Bacon?

Student actor steams up stage, gains popularity from starring role

By Elaina Squillace '06

A theatre goes dark. Music starts and a young man's voice fills the air.

He begins to dance and the audience is entranced by his performance.

Sophomore **Chris Wood** steals the spotlight.

"When I'm on stage, I forget everything," Wood said. "It's my favorite place to be, performing in front of everybody."

Wood has worked years to perfect his acting talents in order to make the stage feel like home.

"I've been acting since I was six, and before then I [acted] in my garage with my sister," said Wood.

Wood made the transition from his garage to the real stage when he saw his sister audition for a play. Even before Wood began to act in a professional setting, the stage was a constant part of his life.

"I always liked being the center of attention," Wood said, "At Thanksgiving I'd put on a show with my sister."

Since he started acting, Chris has performed in approximately 20 productions. His performances include school productions in elementary, middle, and high school as well as professional theatre in downtown Columbus.

His plays include 'Footloose', 'Peter Pan', 'The Children's Hour', and 'The Music Man'.

Wood's favorite role of all is the part of Ren from 'Footloose', a musical performed at Coffman this year.

Wood's dream role would be Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde because of the hindrance the role provides.

"The role is two different characters in one," said Wood. "It's a challenge, and I like challenging roles. It would be fun because Jekyll is good and Hyde is bad. The music is also challenging, even though I already know all of the words."

Wood's friend and acting accomplice of three years **Jacob Lindsey** sees Wood's many roles as an advantage to his growing acting abilities.

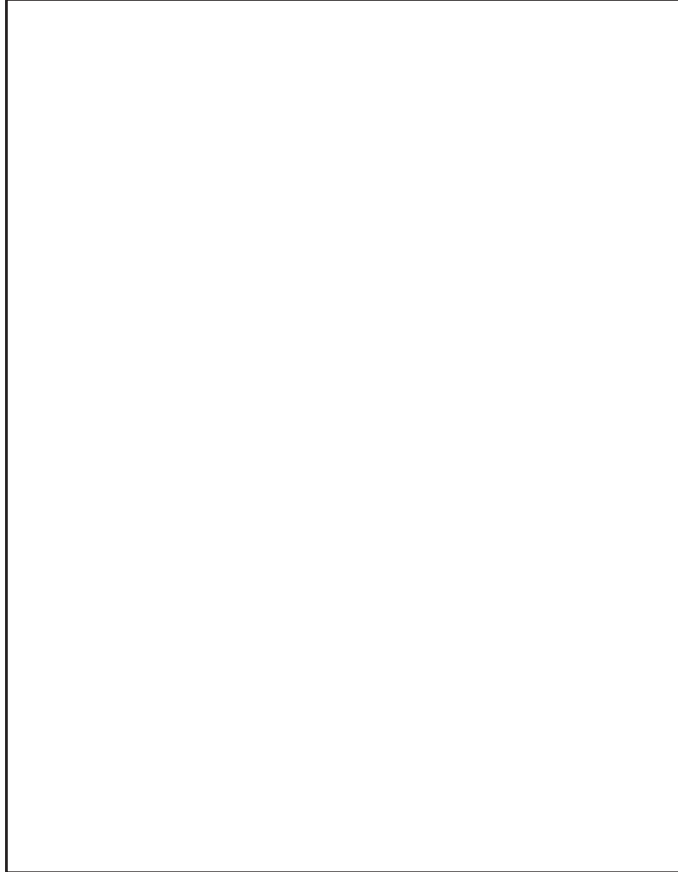
"I think he has had to play a lot with different characters and figures," Lindsey said. "He's added a lot of characters to his repertoire and to what he is able to do."

Theatre teacher **Patricia Scott** sees Wood's strength in his ability to remain professional, which stems from his large acting resume.

"He is extremely professional," said Scott. "He is always prepared."

Lindsey agrees.

"He is definitely professional," said Lindsey. "He's a very easy-going, dedicated, devoted type of guy. When it comes to plays, he's the guy who's on task and listening. He's very mature and you don't have to tell him to be



friend's newfound fame humorous.

"We laughed about how people are coming up to him the other day," said Lindsey. "He's developed a following and people are interested in him."

Wood is also amused by his new female fans.

"I think it's funny," said Wood. "I didn't realize it was that big, but I have heard about it."

Wood's friend, senior **Zach Walker**, jokes about it.

"He's cute!" said Walker.

Despite the growth of his popularity Wood has kept a modest ego.

"When people ask me how I keep my head from swelling, I tell them it's because when you work for the roles you get, you feel like you've earned them,"

"I don't do my homework," said Wood of his hectic schedule. "No, I do my homework. I don't know how I do it because I don't have time to do anything outside of school. On weekends I'm dancing, practicing lines, or at church youth group."

Right now Wood is working on 'The Children's Hour,' which is a Theatre III production. He is the stage manager and the grocery boy, a part in which he has three lines.

After high school Wood hopes to develop his craft in the big city.

"I hope to move to New York for a few years in college," said Wood. "Then L.A. to be on the big screen."

Although Wood hopes to head for the big screen, he said he

prefers the thrill of live performance.

Lindsey believes Wood can achieve each of his goals.

"Ten years from now he's going to be doing whatever he wants to be doing," said Lindsey. "It doesn't matter which college or major because he'll find a way."

Wood wants to be remembered for his dedication to the art of acting and everything he has contributed to the school.

"I want people to remember my determination for theatre," said Wood. "Theatre is everything to me. If you work hard, you can get anything."

Lindsey feels strongly that

Wood's name will never be forgotten.

"He has a passion for what he does and a drive to pursue his dreams," said Lindsey. "He is well motivated and he has the talent to back it up."

said Wood. "Once you've earned something you don't let your head swell."

In addition to his many theatre activities, Wood is also involved in the band as a percussionist, in a church youth group, and takes numerous dance classes.

quiet."

Wood is modest about his degree of professionalism.

"I don't consider myself to be professional," said Wood. "I try really hard to be professional because before amateur theatre I did professional theatre, and high school is really different."

Although Wood does not consider himself professional, his actions show the opposite. Wood states that while he is back stage he is often practicing while his fellow actors sit and talk.

Outside of his professional demeanor, Lindsey and Scott both agree that Wood is an entertaining person to be around.

"Every moment with Chris is a memorable moment," said Scott. "He is extremely funny."

Lindsey shares Scott's opinion.

"He has a great sense of humor," said Lindsey. "He's someone who really gets attention because he's always doing something funny so you notice him quickly."

Lindsey recalls a time when Wood demonstrated his star

qualities and sense of humor.

"One time in middle school after a dress rehearsal of 'Guys and Dolls' we had a song together. We turned that song into a rap and it caught on," said Lindsey. "Someone asked us to perform it after the show and that was really cool."

Although being on stage has its highs, Wood remembers a few rough performances.

"In 'The Music Man' I was throwing up between scenes," said Wood. "In 'Footloose' I passed out because I pulled a muscle in my chest. There was a 50 minute intermission and they fanned me and gave me sugar."

Wood's struggles further show his strong dedication to theatre.

"They wanted to cancel the show [when I passed out]," continues Wood. "but I wouldn't let them."

In the wake of his performance in 'Footloose', Wood's popularity has grown. He has now acquired a following of swooning girls. Lindsey considers his

All about Chris

Full Name: Christopher Charles Wood

Age: 16

Birthday: 4-14-88

Height: 5' 8 1/2"

Favorites:

color: Green

food: Mashed potatoes and gravy

movie: Monty Python and the Holy Grail

band: Five Iron Frenzy or Skillet

song of the moment: The Way You Look

Tonight, Frank Sinatra

TV show: Fairly Odd Parents, Mad TV

actor: Mike Myers, Tom Hanks

quote: "Jump back!"-Kevin Bacon in Footloose

Greatest feeling in the world: "Anytime I go to the call board and see my name on the list -especially a role I really want."

Secret talent: Can preform with diablo sticks and good is at hurting himself doing the easiest things