

Prodigy for Parodies

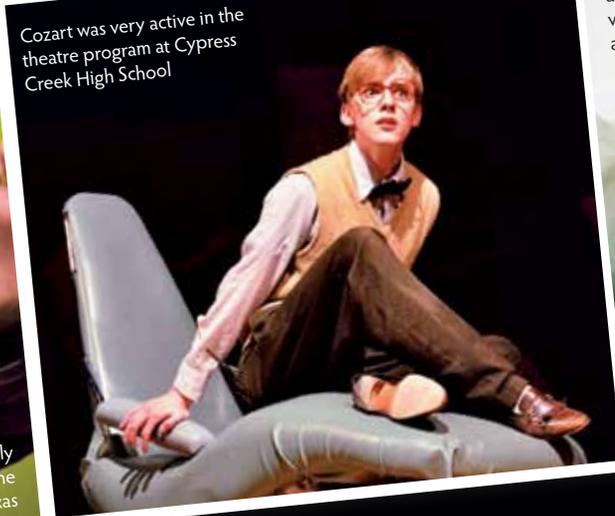
Cy Creek graduate and YouTube sensation Jon Cozart shares the creativity behind his ingenious spoofs

Written by Clare Jensen and Kennan Buckner
Photos courtesy of Jon Cozart

Cy Creek graduate Jon Cozart's Disney princess parody, "After Ever After," has over 15 million views on YouTube



Cozart is currently a film major at the University of Texas



Cozart was very active in the theatre program at Cypress Creek High School



Cozart has made a career out of his videos on YouTube and iTunes

Jon Cozart's music video parody of what happened after the Disney princesses' "happily ever after" took him to the world of videos gone viral. The self-created video titled "After Ever After" was once featured on the Yahoo homepage and the flick has over 15 million views. It's been fitted with subtitles in French, Italian, and Spanish. As a 2011 Cypress Creek High School graduate, Cozart balances a YouTube career with his film major studies at the University of Texas.

Seeds of Success

This comedian-in-training began making videos for high school assignments, which progressed rapidly into musical ditties and parodies, all bearing his particular stamp of sarcastic humor. His videos began to take a more formal element of production with "Harry Potter in 99 Seconds" and "Lord of the Rings in 99 Seconds" featured on his YouTube channel *Paint*. The channel has nearly 1 million subscribers, more than 62 million views, and the numbers continue to climb.

Cozart describes these successes as exhilarating. "Once 'Harry Potter in 99 Seconds' took off, I would wake up every

morning and check the view count. It was like opening presents on Christmas every day.” In addition to viewing the hilarious videos on YouTube, fans can purchase the songs on iTunes.

Getting Creative

What goes into creating viral videos? Cozart doesn't use a recording studio. He just uses a Canon 7D camera for the video and an inexpensive microphone for audio. For editing, he uses the Sony Vegas program, which layers the various lines he sings or different sounds he produces.

Beyond the equipment, a more valuable component is necessary - the artist and his song. Since Cozart works alone, a single video takes hundreds of hours from start to finish.

“The hard part is recording the audio,” Cozart admits. “For ‘After Ever After,’ it took me about eight weeks to finish recording the four-minute song. The video took one day to record and one day to edit.”

Behind the Scenes

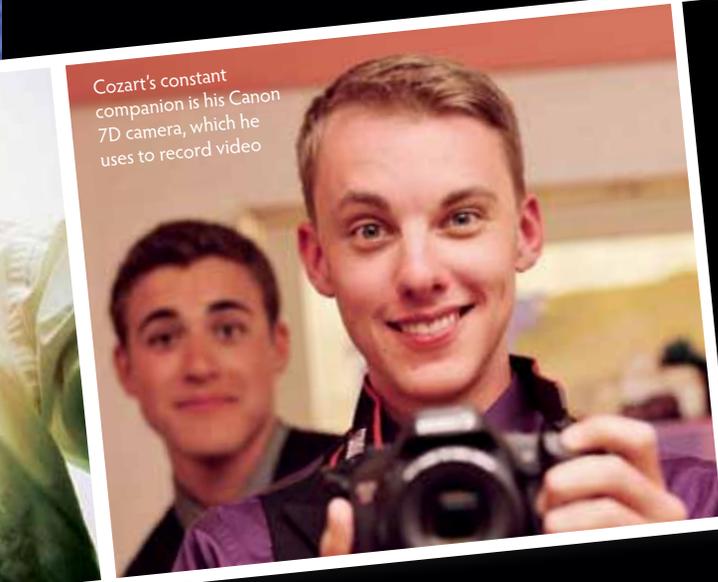
Cozart's support network stems from a variety of sources, such as his improvisation troupe at UT, family, friends, and



Want More Cozart?

Connect with the Cy-Fairian artist and download the latest hysterical parody

- ★ YouTube: youtube.com/user/Paint
- ★ Facebook: facebook.com/paint.joncozart
- ★ Tumblr: joncozart.tumblr.com/
- ★ Twitter: twitter.com/joncozart
- ★ Instagram: instagram.com/cozart



Cozart's constant companion is his Canon 7D camera, which he uses to record video



Part of an improvisation group at UT, Cozart embraces his theatrical side on stage



Cozart's YouTube channel, Paint, has garnered over 1 million subscribers

teachers. Marilyn Miller, the late theatre director at Cypress Creek, acted as his biggest inspiration. “She taught me a lot about acting and theatre life, but she taught me far more about respecting other people and loving the stage,” Cozart reflects.

Cozart relates to others on an easy and natural level, having close friendships with both his peers and teachers. Their casual treatment of him is in stark contrast to that of his fans. His Cypress Creek theatre director and English teacher, Marilyn Ocker, noted that when the theatre group went to nationals for their show *Pippin*, the group couldn't get within 100 yards on the University of Nebraska campus without someone recognizing him.

After Ever After

Cozart, who has been invited to perform at the VIDinc YouTube festival in Australia this year, says more videos are on the horizon - possibly including a continuation of “After

Ever After” for other Disney princesses. In addition, Cozart is developing more long-term goals.

Currently, he is working on a full-length musical for production at UT next spring. In the future, he aspires to produce his own independent film. “I want to grow my audience and hopefully use the money I make from YouTube to produce my own independent films. Each video I make is a stepping stone to further my career as a filmmaker.”

Cozart's YouTube channel continues to be the catalyst for generating more creativity. He reflects, “Ideally, I'd like to make things that inspire people all over the world.” CFM

CLARE JENSEN is a junior at Rice University studying English. YouTube is her constant study companion, and she enjoys any opportunity of exploring it further.