Douglas Education Center works with “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition”

Douglas Education Center (DEC) had the unique opportunity to be involved with one of today’s top television shows: "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." The episode aired Sunday, Jan. 18 on ABC.

DEC received a phone call from one of the show’s designers to see if they could help with the Drumm family build in Quincy Township, PA. One of the sons in the family, Donnie, was a huge special make-up effects and Tom Savini fan. And with Savini having two programs at DEC, and living in the area, it was a perfect match.

Savini, along with students, teachers, and staff at DEC had the opportunity of a lifetime, as they got to help with the concept of Donnie’s room, apply a zombie make-up on one of the show’s designers (Pauly) when he visited the school, and even travel the three hours to the build site to do hands on volunteer work.

Kevin Fear, Director of Marketing, was one of the people who made the trip to the build. He, along with art instructor Francine Mendicino, painted a 12 x 8 foot swamp mural in two days on Donnie’s bedroom wall.

“It was an unbelievable experience,” said Fear. “The atmosphere was incredible, intense, awe-inspiring and the energy level was through the roof.”

“The Monster Makers” in Lakewood, Ohio, a longtime vendor to DEC, donated a professional mask making kit to Donnie. DEC donated clay, paint supplies, make-up supplies, mold making supplies, wigs, etc., and Savini donated a mask out of his very own collection.

Special make-up effects instructor Chris Pirt and student Brandon Guilbeault donated props; a sculpture was created out of one of Donnie’s drawings with help from special make-up effects instructor Eric Molinaris; and Technical Director of Tom Savini’s Special Make-Up Effects Program, Jerry Gergely, along with students Kayla "Jo" Holland and James "Ben" Hardy applied the zombie make-up on Pauly.

During the reveal, Savini made a guest appearance in Donnie’s room to meet the young man and encourage him to continue with his special make-up effects hobby.

"I feel so flattered that Donnie is a fan of mine, and so proud that I could be there for him while his family went through this experience,” said Savini. “I hope he continues on with his love of make-up effects and really enjoys his new room. I'm also so impressed with the Extreme Makeover folks, and it warms my heart to see what they do for people.”

For more information and photos, please visit www.dec.edu/emhe. You can also watch additional clips of the episode online at www.abc.com under “Shows.” Please visit www.dec.edu for information on DEC programs.

"Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," which has won back-to-back Emmy Awards as Best Reality Program (non-competitive), is entering its 6th season on ABC. The program is produced by Endemol USA, a division of Endemol Holding. Anthony Dominici is the executive producer; and David Goldberg is the president of Endemol USA.