

# Apes swing into O&E newsroom



PICKING UP SOME reporting skills are William Blake as Cornelius (left) and Paula Crist as Zira, two characters from the television series, "Planet of the Apes," when they visited the Observer & Eccentric's Livonia office. (Staff photo by Bob Woodring).

By MARILYN FITCHETT

There's no business like show business unless maybe it's monkey business.

To celebrate Livonia Mall's 10th anniversary, shopping center officials decided to capitalize by hosting two cost members from the TV series, "Planet of the Apes."

Apes Cornelius and Zira spent three days last week cavorting in their costumes, signing autographs for shoppers and posing for pictures in their dual roles of promoting both the shopping center and the television series.

Cornelius is portrayed by William Blake, a New Jersey native who doubles as an actor and a make-up artist. He recently finished filming a television episode entitled, "The Interrogation."

Paula Crist of Sacramento, Calif., plays the part of Zira and is also a trained stunt woman. She appeared in the last Apes movie, "Battle of the Planet of the Apes," and will begin shooting a television episode when she returns to Hollywood this week.

In a break from their activities at Livonia Mall the apes dropped into the Livonia office of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers to talk about their profession.

Blake, 24, and Miss Crist, 27, had acting parts portraying animals which led to their hiring as apes.

Highlight of their appearances is the elaborate make-up which they apply themselves.

"It takes us 3 1/2 hours to put the make-up on and about an hour to get it off," Blake explained.

"It's made of rubber and special adhesives and weighs less than an ounce. It's totally functional. It's

porous and you can even perspire through it. It's practically like a facial."

Miss Crist explained that in hiring actors to portray ape parts, directors look for actors who can express themselves through the make-up.

"Facial expression is very important. You have to appeal to the public. It can't look as though you are wearing a mask," she said.

Because make-up application is a tedious and time-consuming chore, it is responsible for slowing down the filming of the series.

"It can take anywhere from one to two weeks just to film one episode," Miss Crist explained. "Make-up is the big hold-up and the actors are carefully scheduled to try to cut down on the lost time."

Not onags the make-up caused production slow-downs but it has posed problems for Miss Crist.

"I've lost 45 pounds since I've been doing this," she said. "About the only thing I can eat is finely chopped meat. I used to have to eat with a mirror in front of me."

Since the mouth of the ape character protrudes about three inches beyond the actor's real mouth, the actor has to be careful not to open his mouth too widely to keep the make-up from cracking.

While both Blake and Miss Crist are under contract to 20th Century Fox, they were not allowed to bring the actual costumes with them for their Livonia Mall appearance and instead made their own which were exact duplicates.

Their footwear is created by adding foam rubber toes built around a tennis shoe.

Miss Crist described crowd reaction

## Mercy presents drama

"Death of a Salesman" will be presented by the Mercy College of Detroit speech and drama department Friday through Sunday, Nov. 1-3, at 8 p.m. in McAuley Auditorium on the Mercy campus.

The play is the story of a time-beaten drummer who, as his son says at his funeral, "never knew who he was."

Tickets are \$2.50 and \$1.50 for students.



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