A host of characters, from ghosts to proper gentlemen to crippled children, inhabited the stage Saturday night, all played by one Scottish actor, Patrick Stewart. Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* was "read" by Stewart, a Royal Shakespearean actor who also plays Captain Picard on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. From the opening scene, in which a fog-obscured, bare-skulled figure pointed at the audience with hooked claw, like the Ghost of Christmas Yet-To-Come, to the climactic moment, in which Scrooge rose from a rusty, choking sound to a full-throated laugh, Stewart made every character work.

And not just the characters, Stewart also did the clocks and knockers, and used words to transform three props into a whole world. From the misery coals that warmed his half-starved clerk to the tiny fireplace that warmed the home of Scrooge, everything in the tale seemed to be on stage.

Of course, as Stewart pointed out in the program, the words belong to Charles Dickens, and, at the close of the performance, as Stewart acknowledged the standing ovation and curtain calls, he waved the script as if pointing to Dickens’s ghost, sharing the credit.

What happened Saturday night was more than just the written word though; it was theater. Whether Stewart played the sick child, Tiny Tim, His mother, a group of gentlemen on the street or an old charwoman selling sheets and shirts stolen from her dead master, the characters had life.

What seemed far more difficult than managing this multitude of characters was the way Stewart was able to establish the relationships between them. After all, he could only be one at a time. But, cutting back and forth like a camera, Stewart focused on one, then another, and the audience had no trouble following who was talking and who they were talking to.

Patrick Stewart, who is the associate director of AC-TER, the UCSB-based national organization which has brought several theatrical events to college campuses, will return to UCSB in the future to perform other roles.

A Review by Dan Jeffers & Ali Shraim

A Christmas Carol, Cap't
Anti-establishment Art

Local Artist Is None Too Happy About The USA

Have you ever wondered what our “civilization” really means? Or, how civilized is a society that starves another country to death and lets thousands go homeless?

These are just some of the questions that come to mind when you take a glimpse at Mike Kresky’s enormous, provocative and often disturbing drawings. A Santa Barbara resident for more than four years now, he is known more for his skating than his artistry. Kresky’s artwork is a “political social commentary dealing with racism in the sacred institutions of America — the stormtrooper security force and the DEA.” A sampling: monolithic drawings of the Buddha and the Pope with rifles extending outward.

Kresky feels the white race has been the barbarians, pirates and doublesiders of the whole world. His illustrations are wrought with irony and humor and seem, at times, childlike. The violence depicted in his culture and yet conveys a message of hope. The reveling portrayals of pervasive violence in the uncivilized world contrasts sharply with the mass media’s bombardment of “America’s still Number One”-type images. Kresky tries to counter the images of our illusory society because “the violence in our world is very real and needs to be presented.” This is his vision quest.

“Committee on the Present Stage of Uncivilization” will be on display from Nov. 24 to Dec. 8 in the UCB Art Gallery. Kresky graduated from UCSB’s teaching credential program in art studio and has been featured in Thrasher magazine. — Trevor Top

MERMAIDS

— NICTA/LLOYD/PALMER — RICHARD BENJAMIN...
CHER BOB HOSKINS WINONA RYDER "MERMAIDS" MICHAEL SCHOFIELD
CHRISTINA RICCI JACQUELINE CAMBAS "JACK NITZSCHE "STUART WURTZEL
HOLLY GRAHAM, B.S.C. PATSY DANN JUNE ROBERTS
LAUREN LLOYD WALLIS NICITA PATRICK PALMER RICHARD BENJAMIN
NATIONAL
PICTURES

FREE SCREENING
Brought to you courtesy of

Liz Claiborne
COSMETICS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28
8:00 PM
CAMPBELL HALL
Sponsored by
AS Program Board
U. Cal/Santa Barbara
Tickets required. Tickets are available day of show beginning noon in front of UCen.
Skye Art

humanity against itself. His response: a bronze sculpture, in the shape of a half cylinder, adorned with the most pervasive symbols that have attached themselves to human consciousness. The two-foot-tall sculpture is curved like a breastplate or shield, and through it—from the inside out—protrudes a sword. The sword cuts through the American and Soviet flags, through the peace symbol and the swastika, through the symbols for male and female, through a dollar sign and the crucifix, and through the word "me.

The piece is intended to disarm the symbols that we integrate into our selves, he explains. "People divide themselves into groups all over the world... People have symbols that they cling to and that divide them so far that they fight over it. It's crazy.

The sword itself is his statement on how we change, how we drop the ego from the inside," he says. "The only thing you can do is revolutionize your own life."

--- Charles Hornberger

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Editors Note: The Works of "Skye" are on display at The Green Dragon in downtown Santa Barbara through November 30.

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Crosa Currents: Bookworks from the Edge of the Pacific is on display at The Creative Studies Gallery through December 21. In an attempt to parallel the work of artists who live on the Pacific, this "hands on" show presents works of artists from China to Ecuador to California. It features such local artists as Steven Cartwright and Harry and Sandra Reese.

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"I'm Crazy"

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ورو IS ART

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THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

a different set of jaws

FIESTA 5 FRIDAY AT MIDNIGHT

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OR IS IT?
Ohh, Those Crazy Lava Kids

Isla Vista has long been known as a haven for bad metal bands and groups of friends scratching out cover songs on weekend nights. In the midst of all this amateur noise making, there exists a band with finesse, style and a helluva lot of talent. They’re called the Lava Children, and the “in” I.V. crowd can’t get enough of ‘em. They’re called the Lava Children, and they've been billed with bands like Indies and Redrum whose music is of the more, uh, aggressive persuasion. But for those of you who frown your brows, contort your lips and say, “Metal... Blech,” it’s time for you to take a listen to something a little different.

Grandma Dynamite’s pre-release demo is one that you can play at a party without scaring away any of your guests, but you'll get some heads banging as well. The first song, “Who’s Driving the Bus?” catches you immediately, opening with an intricate drum solo, a question and a cuss word. Derek’s unique voice, almost pleading at times, adds interest to the rhythm, recebe, remix. The bassist tonally moans, “ooohs” and “ahhs” that'll make the girls stare knowingly and their boyfriends hang on tightly. The rhythm line on “Billy the Kid” makes the song, along with some unexpected rhythm changes that testify to how tight this band is. The last song, “X-tasy,” has been clinically proven to make everyone present sing along.

Myself? It’s not. But it is listenable rock--a rock feel to it, rippin’ guitar work and not much else. By the by, “unspeakable—double, double” and it make it sound cool?) This soon-to-be-released demo is fun, quirky rock ‘n roll.

— Susan Mathews

Marc P. Brown