
DEE BRADLEY BAKER '86

DEE BRADLEY BAKER has been “an actor, a show off, and a nerd” since childhood. As a kid in Greeley, Colo., he loved Warner Bros. cartoons, science-fiction movies, horror comics, acting, and dinosaurs. He wrote a letter in kindergarten reprimanding a textbook company for picturing a dinosaur and a Neanderthal together.

Since being cast in a school musical at age nine, Dee Baker has performed many different types of roles as a performer — everything from a ventriloquist to a summer stock Shakespeare actor. He is now one of the hardest-working voice actors in Los Angeles. His voice can be heard in hundreds of cartoons and feature films such as “Space Jam” (Daffy Duck and Taz), “The Time Machine,” “The Pirates of the Caribbean,” a live-action feature of “Peter Pan,” (both as the “Parrott”) and “SpongeBob Squarepants — the Movie,” where he provided 12 voices. He has recently recorded animal sounds for a feature-length, computer-animated feature with Australian director George Miller for Warner Bros.

Dee attended Colorado College on a Boettcher Scholarship, graduating Phi Beta Kappa in 1986 with a B.A. in philosophy. He also received an exchange scholarship to the University of Goettingen, Germany, and the Awards in Literature grant to co-write a main-stage musical. Dee put his time at CC to very good use, pursuing his interests in biology, fine arts, philosophy, and the German language, in addition to his love of live performing. As a freshman, Dee designed and painted the Mathias Hall television lounge for a painting class final project. He also appeared in numerous coffeehouse shows and stage productions, including leading roles in Pinter’s “The Hot House,” “The Finger of God,” “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead,” and “Candide.” Dee sang in numerous choirs at CC, often serving as bass soloist for the big choir performances. He formed a barbershop quartet with friends as well as a vocal jazz group. Dee also performed and traveled with Stephen Scott’s New Music Ensemble and helped form two improv comedy troupes.

Dee’s post-graduation life in Colorado was a collage of acting roles: stand-up comedy, singing telegrams, mall Santa, children’s theatre, improv comedy, summer Shakespeare, and voice-overs. Dee co-wrote, directed, taped, and acted in a 40-minute sketch movie that aired for years on Colorado public television. He was a manager at Josh and John’s Ice Cream in Colorado Springs. Dee performed three seasons of children’s theatre for the Play Factory at Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, where he met his lovely wife Michelle. Dee moved to Orlando, Florida, in 1989, when Disney World hired him to start up an improv sketch comedy show at EPCOT Center. There he studied singing professionally while performing in numerous shows for Disney and Universal Studios (which included the character of “Beetlejuice”), did varsity improv comedy with TheaterSports, and landed leading roles for the Orlando Civic Theatre. Dee shot three seasons of “Legends of the Hidden Temple,” a game show for Nickelodeon, in Orlando. He was the voice and puppeteer for the giant talking-rock god Olmec. This success led Dee to Los Angeles, the Mecca for voice-over work.

Dee married his wife Michelle at Shove Chapel in 1990. Michelle and Dee now have two daughters: Josie, five and a half years old, and Cora, 11 months.

Dee and his wife arrived in Los Angeles just in time for the Northridge earthquake of '94. His first animated series was “Cow and Chicken” (he voiced “Dad”) for Hanna-Barbera Studios. His first feature work was as Daffy Duck and the Tasmanian Devil for the Warner Bros. feature film “Space Jam.”

Dee is now one of the most versatile and sought-after voice actors in Los Angeles. He has worked on literally hundreds of animated shows for Nickelodeon (“SpongeBob,” “Fairly Odd Parents,” and “Avatar”), Disney Television (“Lilo & Stitch,” “Higgly Town Heroes,” and “Project WITCH”), Cartoon Network (“Codename: Kids Next Door,” and “Billy and Mandy”), and Warner Bros. (“Teen Titans” and “Mucha Lucha”). On Fox Network he is the voice of Klaus, the lascivious German goldfish, in Seth McFarlane’s “American Dad” animated series. Dee has recently focused his vocal versatility on producing realistic animal, alien, and monster sounds. This has led to even more work in film, television, and even video games — he is the voice of Viewtiful Joe, Gravemind in “Halo 2,” and most of the creatures of “Doom 3.”

Dee Bradley Baker is a living example of the liberal arts education and Colorado College proudly presents him for the degree doctor of humane letters, *honoris causa*.
