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Christian Brothers High School's Trevor Rappleye is camera ready

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Trevor Rappleye appears to be a normal high school student – and in truth, he is. Except for the fact that he is the executive producer of KBFT, the nationally acclaimed TV station at Christian Brothers High, not to mention an intern at Channel 3 (KCRA).

This determined teen is opening doors for himself by working hard and rising in the ranks of local television. In a society so enamored with on-screen celebrities, it was refreshing to hear Trevor's story about working the other side of the camera.

Q: How did you get started at Christian Brothers?

A: KBFT was my main goal for going to Christian Brothers. Only sophomores and above are allowed (to work on the station), so I spent my freshman year learning, watching and waiting to have my chance.

Q: What does your position require?

A: My position requires making sure the show is always running. Mr. (Brendan) Hogan, the program director of KBFT, says that I am "second in command." I approve packages, commercials, etc. We have to be careful of what goes on the air, for a lot can go wrong. When Mr. Hogan was gone for a week, I oversaw the class. (A substitute teacher was there.)

Q: Is producing something you have always wanted to do?

A: Being the executive producer of KBFT is not exactly producing. A producer writes the show and determines the top story. Producing to me is helping everyone out. Sometimes I end up doing the package for them, but I don't mean to. I just get hooked on editing.

Q: Are you planning a career in media production? How has KBFT prepared you?

A: My goal since sixth grade has been to do something in film for the rest of my life. Without KBFT, I wouldn't have been accepted as an intern at KCRA. It taught me to go from basic to professional.

Q: Is this your focus for after high school?

A: Yes. I've been accepted into (Cal State) Northridge and Fullerton's film schools, and I plan

on majoring in film and television. Media is what I want to do in life. It's my passion. During my sophomore year of college, I will get an internship at a local TV station or a major motion picture company.

Q: Are you actively pursuing internships?

A: Yes. I have stood out among nine high school interns and currently have an internship at KCRA. That is what has gotten me started. I try not to be conceited, but I love to work hard.

Q: You traveled with KCRA to the set of "Friday Night Lights" to interview the cast, and you have been working on the station's "High School Playbook" segments for a while now. Do you have any upcoming assignments planned with KCRA?

A: I don't have any huge events coming up with KCRA. I recently went to Arco Arena for our girls basketball championship game. My weekly job now is doing interviews with various sports teams. All of my videos can also be seen online, such as on YouTube and the KCRA Web page.

Q: Do you see yourself working both sides of the camera?

A: No. I have had to appear live on KCRA for upcoming football games, and out of the five times I've been on, I messed up three of them! Luckily, I can laugh at myself. Sometimes for "High School Playbook," I have to be the anchor, and that is fun because I get to really feel the story and then edit and produce it later.

Q: What advice do you have for anyone looking to get into producing?

A: Never give up. I have worked so hard and have given up countless hours to get where I am today. Media and film is a tough, tiring job. But if it is your passion, your goals can be reached. If your school has a video class, push your school to turn it into a full TV show. KBFT started out small, and we grew to become No. 1 in the nation.

Q: What do you enjoy doing outside of producing?

A: Going over to friends' houses to watch movies is great. I have my own DVD business, which is a great way to make money outside of KCRA (www.dvds2remember.net). I enjoy watching "Lost," "Jericho" and "Deal or No Deal." How those shows are produced and filmed awes me. Oh, and editing and filming never get old. I can do it until I retire.

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