



[Apple Valley Review](http://AppleValleyReview.com)

Lights, camera ... SFX

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Special to the Apple Valley Review

Film students at the Lewis Center's Academy for Academic Excellence, strive every day to create their art, from music videos and film trailers to knights in shining armor.

Their films are their passion. And on Feb. 25, they saw their dreams come alive as Hollywood special effects coordinator John Cazin showed up to Steven Orsinelli's classroom with snow machines, film props, and cannons galore.

Cazin, a pyrotechnician, has worked on movies such as "Contact", "Batman and Robin", "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" and more recently "Iron Man" I and II, "Inception", "The Dark Night" and "I Am Legend".

Inspiring many young students, Cazin made it snow inside a classroom, surprising everyone. The looks on the students' faces were priceless when he threw shards of fake glass soaring into the crowd, until they found out that it was merely a jelly material, and they exploded in laughter.

Cazin took the class behind the school where he previously set up a small air-pressured cannon that shot out dust, fake glass and balsa wood. The crowd cheered with delight.

Cazin said he started his career path just at the start of high school. He built haunted houses every year full of special effects and mechanical monsters. His career led him to work with Steven Spielberg, Christopher Nolan, and other great directors. His visit to the Lewis Center's film class awed and inspired the aspiring filmmakers.

Jacob Painter is a student filmmaker and attends the Lewis Center's Academy for Academic Excellence in Apple Valley. To view his work, click on www.youtube.com/jpproducing.

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