

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Aliah Rheinlein
831-332-8522 Cell
aliah@cocreating.us

Beach Dreamland - A Santa Cruz inspired story of wonder that lead to being both in front & behind the camera.

The story of a 14 year old 9th grader at Santa Cruz High Zack Rheinlein wins 1st Place and other honors with all 6 photos he entered at the 2011 Santa Cruz County Fair.



"Beach Dreamland"
1st place & also Best of Section -
Scenic & Landscapes.



"Dances In Violet"
1st Place



"Chillin" Grasshopper"
1st Place



"Thirsty Bee"
1st place & Special Honors for "Beneficial Creatures"
an Agriculture photo presentation with information about
Organic Farming & Biodiversity
Bees help to pollinate plants.



"Happy Dragonfly"
1st Place as one of the photos of the "Beneficial Creatures"
presentation - Dragonflies eat bugs that harm agriculture.



"Butterfly Moment"
1st Place as one of the photos
of the "Beneficial Creatures"
presentation - Butterflies
help to pollinate plants.



Zackariah Rheinstein -
Self Portrait
Nature Photographer/Actor (14)
www.zackrphotography.com
[www.aliahselah.com/
zackacting.htm](http://www.aliahselah.com/zackacting.htm)

Beach Dreamland - A Santa Cruz inspired story of wonder that lead to being both in front & behind the camera.

14 year old actor Zackariah Rheinstein has always been comfortable being in front of the camera, but in his 7th grade year, he went on a camping trip with his school - Alternative Family Education to Pinnacles National Monument and seeing all the amazing beauty there, he found that he loved taking pictures of it. Zack took some wonderful shots that weekend with his consumer camera that were published in the AFE yearbook and then sold them as greeting cards at the AFE Art Show. This inspired him to spend the whole summer before his 8th grade year earning the money for a semi pro-camera. Some relatives contributed to his camera fund, but mostly he did every odd job he could find and sure enough, by the end of the summer he had earned enough to get the camera he had researched - the Canon EOS Rebel T21/550D and Canon Telphoto EF 100mm f/2.8 USM Marco Autofocus that allowed him to get close into tiny creatures and catch birds in flight along with taking shots of the inspiring sunsets of Santa Cruz at the beach or in the Redwoods. Once he had his new camera, he built his own web site in just a week and maintains it with new photos all the time (www.zackrphotography.com) and together with his parents he officially started Zack Rheinstein Photography - so he could sell his photo greeting cards in more places around Santa Cruz and on his web site.

Zack has always focused on technology, he taught himself to video edit, and is very accomplished at video games. His parents did their best to keep him active with other interests, but also knew that the follow-through & diligence of his devotion to video gaming would transfer to other things in his life. They observed how he would do the same task in a video game... 25 or 50 times until he achieved going to the next level. Also, watching him play, his parents saw it was very similar to the job of a film actor who has to go back to the starting point of the scene and do it over and over until the director feels they have a good take. So in a sense he was "rehearsing" to be an action actor with all the video gaming. He was very into the game "Assassin's Creed" and from playing it he was inspired to learn Italian, Ninjistu, and all about Leonardo da Vinci who was in the game advising the one playing and offering his inventions to them. This lead him to learn all about the many da Vinci inventions and how they worked. Because Zack was home schooled, he had the time to focus and follow all of his innate interests. They found out later that this was how Leonardo himself learned - one of the most famous home schoolers.

So just as they made peace with the video game issue... something happened that totally shocked everyone who knew Zack - he completely stopped playing video games on his own for over a year to focus only on Digital Photography. He dived into all he could find: on-line tutorials and workshops with pro photographers, and learning photography software, especially Photoshop Elements & Lightroom as tools to enhance his photos in post production. At AFE they were offering a Photography class with UCSC Photography Professor Tosh Tanaka who helped Zack to take his passion with Digital Photography even further. All this hard work paid off recently when he entered 6 photos at the 2011 Santa Cruz County Fair that all won 1st place, 3 in Junior Fine Arts Photography: "Chillin' Grasshopper", "Dances In Violet", & "Beach Dreamland" (that also won Best of Section - Scenic & Landscapes) and also 1st place & Special Honors for "Beneficial Creatures" - an Agriculture photo presentation with information about Organic Farming and Biodiversity and 3 photos of beneficial insects: "Thirsty Bee", "Happy Dragonfly", & "Butterfly Moment." In his presentation he states how we need to care for these insects.. and how bees and butterflies help to pollinate plants and Dragonflies eat bugs harmful to agriculture.

Zack took Acting For The Camera at Cabrillo College as his 8th grade English focus - to help prepare him to be a freshman at Santa Cruz High School, a move he decided to make himself to have the opportunity to learn more in the sciences. Now, inspired by his Biology teacher Mr. Larry Thibault, he's building on his interest in nature through studying Biology. His parents had many good ideas about optimal learning for their son yet they needed a community to reflect back what we were saying to him and because of AFE - he had the time, place and community support to find his passion for acting and photography and find his way with a deep love of learning. And now his journey continues as he learns more about nature through Biology and all the other classes at Santa Cruz High that he is excited to learn more about. He knows he will be taking photos of Nature all his life... so that he is able to offer his love and support of nature & wildlife... with others. His Santa Cruz Country Fair Agriculture presentation on Organic Farming & Biodiversity showed how important so many creatures are to us and how we need to protect them and Organic Farming does that. Here in Santa Cruz there are many who feel this way... and the photo Beach Dreamland is dedicated to Santa Cruz - for Zack Rheinstein Santa Cruz is a beach dreamland that became real.

###