

A career hand-drawn from the silver screen

SCOTT WILLIAMS

scott.williams@journaltimes.com

ROCHESTER — From his childhood days around the kitchen table with his artistic father, Brian Bzdawka knew that he liked to draw pictures.

For the longest time, though, Bzdawka was not sure what kind of pictures he should draw.

Then the gifted artist with a knack for capturing people's faces decided that he would simply draw what he knows and what he loves.

And this guy loves movies.

From his studio at home in Rochester, Bzdawka is building a following — and a business — with hand-drawn images of famous movie scenes, meticulously recreated with jaw-dropping accuracy.

In sketching memorable moments with such stars as Julia Roberts, Jack Nicholson and Chris Farley, Bzdawka prides himself not only on accuracy, but on selecting the precise moment in a movie that elicits a laugh or tugs at the heart.

"You don't have to love movies to have loved a movie or a character," he said.

With more than 100 drawings now available at his website, briandrawsmovies.com, Bzdawka is marketing his work on prints, T-shirts and coffee mugs. Prices range from about \$20 to \$40.

His work is winning fans among movie-goers who appreciate both his gifted artistry and his knack for choosing film scenes that are recognizable without necessarily being regarded as iconic images — at least not yet.

Longtime friend David Hillestad said

he enjoys seeing Bzdawka's own personality come through in his unique interpretations of Big Screen moments.

Bzdawka's collectibles include such Hollywood favorites as Adam Sandler in "Billy Madison," Robin Williams in "Mrs. Doubtfire," Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg in "The Other Guys," Michael J. Fox in "Teen Wolf," Arnold Schwarzenegger in "Total Recall," and John Wayne in "Rio Bravo."

"Brian is impossibly talented," Hillestad said. "He can do anything, and do it amazingly well."

Growing up in the Milwaukee suburb of Cudahy, Bzdawka was first introduced to drawing as a fun activity he shared with his father, Jeff Bzdawka. His father worked as a commercial artist whose work included creation of the A&W Root Beer bear in an orange sweater and matching cap.

Sitting around the kitchen table in Cudahy, his father would start a random drawing, then hand it over to Brian to finish.

Soon, Bzdawka was entertaining friends at school with his drawing ability, even sketching portraits on demand for \$20 each. He always found more fulfillment in drawing people than other subjects, mostly because of the expressiveness found in the human face.

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VIDEO: Watch Brian Bzdawka at work inside his home studio. **NEWSVU**



DRAWINGS BY BRIAN BZDAWKA

From bottom to top, Samuel L. Jackson in "Pulp Fiction," Wisconsin-native Chris Farley in "Tommy Boy," Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze in "Dirty Dancing" and Bill Murray in "Caddyshack."