

Grammy

From Page 1

led to projects of my own. The art just manifested itself over the last seven or eight years through a lot of dedication and hard work."

The list of clients for which Merkwan has worked includes some of the world's most recognizable companies: Ford, Nissan, Nike, Microsoft, Pepsi, Sony, Time Warner and many more. He is currently employed at Mirada Studios.

"To get the big jobs, it's all about getting the reel to prove you can jam," he said. "You just have to take every opportunity you can and do the best work you can in the amount of time that you have. Once your work gets recognized, you start getting noticed. Once you get noticed, you start getting recommended for bigger and better jobs. Once you've proven yourself, clients start asking for you, specifically, because they know you can deliver what they need."

Also important is the relationship that develops between a director and an editor, according to Merkwan.

"The director oftentimes has the client relationship and just picks you," he said. "If you look at film directors, they work with the same editor almost 90 percent of the time. A great director always has an amazing editor.

Always. I'm a staff editor, so I get to work on so many different kinds of projects — commercials, music videos, conceptual pitching on film and commercial projects, web content, storyboards, previsualization, case studies and behind the scenes. It's hard to pick a favorite style. Depending on the premise, any project can go either way. I like the jobs where I'm not working 90-hour weeks!"

It's through his relationship with director Grady Hall that Merkwan became involved with the Capital Cities project.

"Grady Hall got invited to pitch his ideas to Capital Records for the video," Merkwan said. "After a successful treatment, the label picked his vision. We had been working on several commercial projects together recently, and he asked me if I wanted to do it. I knew it was going to be a ton of work, but I also read his treatment and saw the scope of the video and couldn't turn it down."

According to the Mirada website, the video includes a "mash-up of more than 40 wildly different dance styles ... Techniques include head replacements, complex animations, stock footage integration, transformations, and retro-inspired visual effects and color treatments ranging from black and white silent film influences to psychedelic visuals."

It didn't all happen through Hollywood magic. Merkwan described the experience as exhausting.

"We shot one day at The Los Angeles Theatre," he said. "Just to give you an idea of how small of a budget we were working with, most videos shoot at least two days. So we had to know exactly what we needed before the shoot."

"If you watch the video closely, you can see there is archival footage mixed in with the live action," Merkwan continued. "Before we shot, we basically cut the video with stock footage. When we picked which ones we were actually going to use in the final video, we shot the plate at the theater and comped the footage on top. Once I had all the footage from the shoot, I edited everything together. There is no absolute order of anything. You might get a few notes from the director about takes he liked, but it's my job and my gut to create the story."

"We edited for about 12 days straight on that one. Once the edit is approved, all the final shots get kicked downstairs to composition, and those magicians put all the polish on it."

After all the hard work was out of the way, Merkwan said he was proud of the video upon completion.

"It really just has a unique quality to it," he stated. "To see it evolve from concept to final picture was just special in its own right. I work on lots of projects that take so much time and energy to accomplish. Almost all of them never really get any

recognition, so when this was nominated for a VMA and won, it was single-handedly the proudest I have ever been in my career. And then it got nominated for a Grammy, and it was just a whirlwind. I will always have a special place in my heart for this video. It just feels great to receive such recognition for hard work. The Grammys is the Super Bowl for music videos. You can't really be more honored than that. It was a rush."

Merkwan didn't go to the actual Grammy ceremony but did attend some pre-parties, which included concerts, label executives and musicians.

"It was a lot of fun," he said. "The director is the main recipient of the award, so he got the red carpet treatment."

With the success of the "Safe and Sound" video under his belt, Merkwan said he will continue to work hard in the hopes of achieving even higher levels of recognition.

"That is my most successful project to date, so hopefully it will lead to even better work in the future," he stated. "I'm going all in with my shades on."

Watch the video, which has been viewed more than 71 million times on YouTube, at: <http://youtu.be/47dtFZ8CFo8>

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

Car Talk

Seatbelt Laws Have Evolved

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Tom and Ray:

Longtime fan and avid listener. I have a 44-year-old two-seat Jaguar E-type sports car. When we were young, we often rode around with three people in the front. I have searched and cannot find any info regarding if that is legal in my home state of Massachusetts. Any idea? — David

RAY: Well, even if it were legal, I wouldn't let you pick ME up!

TOM: It's actually not allowed, David. By federal law, any car manufactured after July 1, 1966, must have one seat belt per seat. And only one person is allowed to use each seat belt (I never knew we had an epidemic of seat-belt sharing back then).

RAY: Pretty much every state now has a law requiring that every person traveling in a car must be wearing the seat belt that corresponds to his or her seat.

TOM: I think the only hold-out is your neighbor to the north, David: New Hampshire (state motto: Live Free and Then Die By Getting Projected Through Your Windshield).

RAY: If your car had been

pre-July 1966, and had never HAD seatbelts to begin with, you'd be exempt, and you'd be free to endanger the life of that middle-seat passenger.

TOM: So if you want to drive around with three people, it sounds like you'll have to buy a second 44-year-old Jaguar E-Type and lash the bumpers together. Which might not be a bad idea, because that doubles your odds on any given day that at least one of them will start. Drive safely, David.

What's the best way to warm up your engine in the morning? Find out by ordering Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or email them by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

© 2014, Tom and Ray Magliozzi and Doug Berman

Benda

From Page 1

eligibility for permanent U.S. visas. SDRC arranged pools of \$500,000 loans from participants and charged additional fees to them.

The Aberdeen-based SDRC hired Benda in January 2011, after incoming Gov. Dennis Daugaard didn't retain him.

During Benda's time as a member of Gov. Mike Rounds' cabinet, SDRC arranged major EB-5 loans for large projects in Aberdeen, Huron, Deadwood, Brookings County and Day County. Benda also generated state grants from his office for those projects in some instances.

Two EB-5 loans went for constructing and equipping the Northern Beef Packers plant in Aberdeen and two other EB-5 loans went to the Dakota Provisions meat-processing operations at Huron.

Benda's later job with SDRC was loan monitor for Northern Beef. SDRC's lawyer, Jeff Sveen of Aberdeen, was a top figure in Dakota Provisions' management. During his final month as a state employee, Benda arranged for several major grants to Northern Beef.

One was \$1 million from the Future Fund, a program that the governor exclusively controls. Benda hand-delivered the check to Northern Beef in January 2011. In turn Northern Beef placed \$550,000 in an escrow account for SDRC under a previous arrangement to pay for the Northern Beef loan monitor, who was Benda.

Benda also arranged in December 2010 for two Future Fund grants to be increased to South Dakota Development Corporation, a quasi-government agency that makes loans to projects. One of the grants was increased from \$650,000 to \$1.2 million for SDDC. That was loaned to Northern Beef. The other grant was increased

from \$800,000 to \$850,000 for SDDC. That loan wasn't completed. The \$1.2 million was delivered to Northern Beef in early 2011.

The state audit was conducted at the request of the current commissioner of economic development, Pat Costello. The report was delivered to Gov. Daugaard. He released it Thursday.

The Legislature plans to now proceed with hearings that will be without the key witness.

As federal and state investigations were proceeding, Benda died Oct. 20 from a shotgun wound to his abdomen that authorities determined was self-inflicted.

The state audit confirmed the findings earlier by state Attorney General Marty Jackley that Benda double-billed, and was reimbursed each time, for two airline trips to China and one to Las Vegas.

Costello terminated the state contract with SDRC in September. Its provisions called for SDRC to establish from the extra fees paid by investors an indemnity account to protect state government and an expense account to cover costs for recruiting investors and for related matters.

State government won't have access to the money in the indemnity account for six more years under the contract. The expense account had \$28,240.03, according to Nathan Lukkes, deputy commissioner at GOED. The money was transferred from SDRC to GOED on Jan. 31.

The auditor general's report recommends that GOED attempt to recover approximately \$61,000 from SDRC to cover state government's reimbursement of expenses to Benda that SDRC should have paid.

Meetings

From Page 1

this month in Onawa, Iowa, and Dakota City, Neb., he added.

According to media reports, the presentations focused on Corps management practices that the firm alleges led to 2011 flooding and may create future flooding.

Corps spokeswoman

Maggie Oldham with the Omaha District told the *Sioux City Journal* that the Corps doesn't comment on pending litigation.

Persons with questions about next week's meetings or needing special assistance can contact Lederman at dan@danlederman.org or by phone at (712) 251-1992.

You can contact Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

South Dakota Department of Human Services CHOICES
Program Specialist II/
Medicaid Waiver
Manager
Pierre, SD
The SD Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities, is looking for an individual to manage the CHOICES Home & Community-Based Medicaid waiver program that supports comprehensive services to 2,800 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Degree in social work, psychology, sociology, business/public administration or human service field is preferred. Salary \$1748.24-\$1966.77 semi-monthly DOE. Closes 2/20/14. For more information and to apply, please go to <http://bhr.sd.gov/workforus>, and reference Job ID #2750. EOE.

Roses... just because!
Fundraiser for Avera Sacred Heart Hospice Operating Endowment
Help Avera Sacred Heart Hospital continue to enhance hospice care in our region by taking advantage of this great value. Order your "Roses...Just Because!"
How to Place Your Order
Roses are on sale until March 14, 2014, and are only \$25 for one dozen long-stemmed roses.
To order or donate roses, go to www.AveraSacredHeart.org or call the Avera Sacred Heart Foundation at 605-668-8310.
Pick Up Your Roses
Tuesday, April 8, from 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Benedictine Center Lobby (1000 W. 4th St., Yankton). Come early to choose from a wide variety of colors.
Roses not picked up by 5 p.m. will be donated to Hospice Patients and Care Center Residents.
Avera Sacred Heart Foundation
501 Summit ~ Yankton, SD ~ 605-668-8310

YANKTON WIRELESS™
IT'S HERE!
True Unlimited and Unbundled WiMAX Highspeed Broadband Internet Service to Your Home.
SIGN UP TODAY!
Multi-Megabit Download Speeds for FAST Internet Surfing, Serious Gaming and **Unlimited Data** for Watching Video on Demand starting at only \$59⁹⁵ per month plus tax.
Are you tired of 'Bundles' and 'Limits' on your Internet plans? If so, sign up today for Multi-Megabit performance with no hidden fees and no download limits at www.yankton-wireless.com.
YANKTON WIRELESS™
WIRELESS INTERNET
> call: 605.760.9764
> email: info@yankton-wireless.com
> visit: www.yankton-wireless.com