



Wendt Character Initiative Grant Request Form

All approved funding requests will require submission of receipts and/or invoices for reimbursements and a follow-up report. Please email to Wendt@dbq.edu. Please read separate instructions.

Name of Person(s) Requesting Funding

Michele McKinlay, Assistant Professor of English

Department

Language & Literature (English)

Email

Email@dbq.edu

Phone

589-xxxx

Project/Event Name

Travel to American Player's Theater in Spring Green, Wisconsin to experience their production of William Shakespeare's play, *Cymbeline*. The production includes a post-show educational discussion with members of the APT production team and cast.

Date of Project/Event

Wednesday, September 8, leave UD campus at 8:30 for 10:30 curtain.
Return to campus no later than 4:00 pm.

Will this project involve a class? If so, please include course name and number.

ENG 311, Survey of British Literature I, ENG 495 Senior Seminar; and majors and minors in the department. Students from the Department of Theatre have been invited, as well. We will also invite students from Gen Ed ENG 112/ENG 260 if tickets remain.

Other Sponsors/Potential Sponsors and Amount of Expected Contribution(s)

Students will need to pick up the cost of any expenses not covered by the Wendt grant.

Itemized Costs (to your best knowledge)

Tickets: 25 @ \$14 (matinee pricing) = \$350

Lunch: 25 @ \$8.50 = \$212.50

2 UD vans: \$161

Amount Requesting:

\$723.50

Brief Description of Project/Event**One sentence/phrase:**

An educational trip for students to experience a live professional performance of Shakespeare's *Cymbeline* and respond to its ethical dimensions.

Elaboration: (Please attach any available supporting documents about the event or person; e.g. conference descriptions, bios, posters)

We want our students to experience live theater because it embodies on stage the moral questions they face in their lives and offers the opportunity for self-reflection and moral development.

Cymbeline, though a comedy, finds its characters struggling with serious ethical questions and is a perfect play for character development. Students will be required to respond in writing and in discussion to the ethical issues the play raises. See this link for fuller information on the play and the company, American Players Theatre.

<https://americanplayers.org/plays/cymbeline>

Fit with Wendt Character Initiative (How does this fit with, encourage, and/or build character, identified through integrity, justice, and/or compassion?)

Royal Shakespeare Company defines *Cymbeline* as “Shakespeare’s rarely performed romance of power, jealousy and a journey of love and reconciliation”. At its heart, the play explores the challenge of holding onto integrity when those in authority expect blind obedience, the consequences of unjust choices, and the enduring legacy of choosing compassion over power.

How Project or Event will Impact and Engage Students (What specific activities will engage students, or how will students otherwise be impacted?)

The experience of attending live theatre events is dwindling among general populations. The opportunity to experience one of Shakespeare’s seldom performed plays by a professional company within driving distance to campus is a rare opportunity, indeed. This is a wonderful opportunity for students in English and Theatre (as well as general education students) to come together and experience live theatre in a convivial atmosphere. Students will have ample opportunity for pre and post show discussion and written reflection.

Goals and Intended Outcome (What are your goals for the project/event? How do these connect to character knowledge and/or formation?)

We hope that our students will be engaged by the story and the high quality of acting, directing and dramaturgy for which American Players Theatre is known. We want them not merely to take in this play passively, but to reflect on it critically and thoughtfully afterwards. This will be achieved through the discussion held after the event and also in both Dr. Barz’s “Senior Seminar” class as well as Dr. Tann’s “Survey of British Literature” course.

Reflection Activity (for class) or Planned Means of Evaluating Effectiveness of

Project/Event (How will you evaluate whether this project achieved your goals? What activities are planned for explicit reflection and/or discussion of how character is shaped by the experience or how character knowledge is expanded?)

Since we are asking that our attendance at this performance be underwritten by the Wendt Center, we will ask each of the students to reflect on the Wendt Character Initiative—to develop people of integrity characterized by justice and compassion—and write a one-page response as to how this play (and possibly the experience of the trip as well) shaped them and what it taught them about becoming a person of character.

We hope our discussions will begin their thinking along these lines, and the written prompt will ask them to address both the play’s focus on character as well as what they learned about their own character formation from it that they can apply to their own self-knowledge as well as the lives they hope to lead. Professors Barz and Tann will incorporate this assignment into their courses, but everyone who attends will be required to submit the short essay on how the play shaped their understanding of character.

NOTE: If your project/event is approved, please include the following language for public announcements of grants:

This project is supported by the Wendt Character Initiative, which is devoted to promoting a campus culture of excellent moral character and purposeful lives characterized by integrity, justice, and compassion.

FOR WENDT OFFICE USE ONLY

Amount Approved

Date Approved

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Signature of Wendt Director