

Independent Study Application Form

Department Of Communication and Theatre Arts

Monmouth College

*Before submitting this application you must discuss your independent study plans and learning goals with a CATA Faculty member who you intend to have supervise your project. By the beginning of the independent study semester eligible students will (1) have reached junior standing (59 hours) (2) be in good academic standing and (3) have completed a substantial portion of the major in CATA. Please submit this form to [Lee McGaan](#), CATA Internship/IS Director. **THIS FORM MUST BE TYPED AND SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY.***

Student Name: Michelle Anstett, **Faculty Advisor:** Dr. Wallace

Application Date: 3/13/ 06 **Campus/local Phone:** 3605 **Campus Box** #707

Major(s) : CATA and English **Minor(s)** _____

Number of hours completed prior to start of current semester: 98 **Cumulative GPA :** 3.6

CATA/ Major GPA: 3.8 of 4.0 **Anticipated Graduation Date:** May 2007

For which term (Fall, Spring, Summer/ year) will you complete the Independent Study?

Fall 2006 **Number of credit hours sought:** 3

List of specific course or other background, skills and abilities you possess that would be of value in doing quality work in the independent study you propose: I have been involved with theatre (community and educational) for nearly ten years, and I have been involved with nearly every aspect of theatre. I have been onstage numerous times, I have stage managed, assistant directed, helped with costumes and props, painted and built scenery, hung and executed lights, designed sound, designed makeup and hair, and many other areas. In the fall of 2005, I directed a short play for competition at Oxford University. In addition, I have taken many courses here at Monmouth, including Beginning and Advanced Acting, Intro. to Tech. Theatre, Modern Theatre, and Directing. I have assisted and taught many workshops for children back in my hometown.

Have you previously had an independent study or internship through the Department of CATA?

YES **NO**

If "YES", when? _____ where? _____ Faculty Sponsors? _____

In what way would an independent study enhance your studies here at Monmouth? What "learning goals" do you have for your independent study? I have always wanted to direct, as I have a lot of "directorial visions" running around in my head. My courses here at Monmouth have helped to enhance these visions, and I know that the things I have learned here would help me to get my vision across to my company and the audience. I would like to learn, while completing my independent study, how to effectively communicate with members of a theatrical company in an effort to present a unified, well-done show. I would also like to be able to bring Shakespeare to a wider audience, potentially expanding into the area high schools in order to show students that Shakespeare was meant for everyone and not just academics sitting around and talking about how astute he was.

Have you made any preliminary work on this project? YES NO

If “YES”, please describe your preparations: I have read my chosen piece several times, doing a great deal of in-depth critical study. I have also thoroughly researched Shakespeare and his theatrical times, which has helped me to develop my overall concept. I’ve begun to gather some preliminary materials which will help to create setting, lighting, and costuming designs. As a result of my work, I have developed an over-arching vision for my production (described below) which I believe will be interesting for audiences to observe.

Name of the CATA Faculty member with whom you have discussed your independent study plans and who has agreed to supervise your work: Dr. Wallace

Deliver to Internship/IS Director : Lee McGaan (by email)

Title of the Independent Study Project: Othello

Below provide a narrative description of the project you propose. Include a fairly detailed description of what sorts of research or preparation you will do for the project, what activities you will engage in and what form the final product will take (e.g. a paper, a production, a design, etc.). Include a timeline proposing stages in which you will complete the work and attach a preliminary reading list if appropriate.

I would like to direct William Shakespeare's *Othello*. I would like to have the stage built in an exact replica of the current design of the Globe Theatre in London, and painted all in black. I would make use of the back cyclorama for lighting effects, such as red washes for Iago's monologues. I would like to present this production in a more symbolic manner, costuming characters in varying shades of white or black depending upon their moral constitution. For example, Iago would always be costumed in black as a result of his evil nature, and Desdemona would always wear white because she is the innocent victim of Iago's plots. Characters such as Othello, whose morality change throughout the course of the play would begin in one spectrum and move slowly into the other – ex: Othello would be costumed in white/cream early in the show, and as he becomes more jealous, his costumes would move into more shades of gray and, finally, black. I have yet to decide as to whether or not I would want to set this piece in its original time period, or take it out of time and have the costumes and props come from a range of time periods. As of right now, I'm leaning more toward the latter. I would also like to design an program of educational materials for area high school English teachers, and present a special performance for those interested. My materials would present a method of studying Shakespeare (from the vantage point of this one play) from specific cultural aspects instead of trying to tackle all which Shakespeare encompasses in a short amount of time. I would design a two- to three-week curriculum which would allow students to engage with the text prior to seeing the production, and then they would attend a special performance of *Othello* in which they would have the opportunity to talk with me and the cast about our process.

All of my work in these areas (the curriculum development, design proposals, prompt book, etc.) would be completed prior to returning here in the fall. I would then audition the show as early as possible in an effort to give the cast more time to engage the text and bring my vision to life onstage. I would work very closely with them during rehearsals to bring out as many nuances of character as possible.

Thus far, my reading list has consisted mainly of as many works by Shakespeare, and articles on his work, as I can find. I have also done some research into the Elizabethan period, both in print and on the Internet. Unfortunately, I do not have a list at this time, but I can provide one if that becomes an issue.

*I am also looking into combining this project with my Honors Independent Study, as it is interdisciplinary in nature.