

**EUE Proposal  
FY2015**

**Project ID#**  
15\_003

**Project Title**  
SIUE Xfest / Manual Cinema

<b>Project Director</b>	<b>ID Number</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Chuck Harper		5012	charper@siue.edu

<b>Department</b>	<b>Campus Box</b>	<b>School/College</b>
Theater and Dance	1777	CAS

**Course or Program**  
Department of Theater and Dance - Xfest, a festival of alternative theater and dance

Project Co-Director	ID	Department	Email

Multiple Submission Priority:	1
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**Summary:**

The SIUE Department of Theatre and Dance proposes to bring Chicago-based theatre ensemble Manual Cinema to SIUE campus in September 2014 for a five-day residency as part of SIUE's Xfest. Manual Cinema will perform a world premiere full-length production (not yet titled) and will also conduct master classes, seminars and question/answer sessions with departmental and university students. Manual Cinema combines handmade shadow puppetry, cinematic motifs, and live sound manipulation to create immersive theatrical stories. This multi-faceted approach to performance makes them an ideal company for Xfest (which features multi-disciplinary artists) and for university students, as the ensemble draws on a wide range of disciplines and skills which will make the master classes and workshops attractive to a wide variety of university students.

**Project Budget**

Salary	Wages	Travel	Equip.	Comm	CServ	Auto	Tele	Awards	Total
0	0	4760	0	0	11000	0	0	0	15760

**Cost-Sharing**

Salary	Wages	Travel	Equip.	Comm	CServ	Auto	Tele	Awards	Total
0	0	4760	0	0	7000	0	0	0	11760

## **Project Narrative**

### **SIUE Xfest and Manual Cinema**

#### **Project Summary**

The SIUE Department of Theatre and Dance proposes to bring Chicago-based theatre ensemble Manual Cinema to SIUE campus in September 2014 for a five-day residency as part of SIUE's Xfest. Manual Cinema will perform a world premiere full-length production (not yet titled) and will also conduct master classes, seminars and question/answer sessions with departmental and university students. Manual Cinema combines handmade shadow puppetry, cinematic motifs, and live sound manipulation to create immersive theatrical stories. This multi-faceted approach to performance makes them an ideal company for Xfest (which features multi-disciplinary artists) and for university students, as they draw on a wide range of disciplines and skills which will make the master classes and workshops attractive to a wide variety of university students.

#### **Current Situation**

SIUE Xfest is a week-long festival of alternative theatre and dance, produced annually by the Department of Theater and Dance, that introduces our campus and community to a wide variety of performing artists. Each year the festival presents ensembles of national and international repute as well as featuring the works of local emerging artists. In addition to performing, these artists offer classes to university students. 2014 marks a major transition year for Xfest.

Originally conceived and produced in summer of 2010, Xfest was developed as an outreach program that would bring vital activity to the campus during the less active summer months.

After four summer festivals the staff and administration concluded that the festival would be

better able to serve the university students by moving it into the academic year. This move will significantly increase the direct contact and interaction between the performing/teaching artists and university students. This project will expose students to styles of theatre, and to a group of performing artists, that that they would not otherwise encounter in their studies at SIUE.

Students will be afforded the opportunity to not only work with these master artists in an intensive workshop environment, but will also be able to view the artists current work, which in this case will be the premiere of an original devised work. This project will primarily serve departmental majors. Fifty to seventy-five currently declared majors will all be in attendance at the performance and the post-performance discussion. We anticipate that we will reach another seventy-five to 100 minors and non-majors through the performance (seating capacity for the single performance is app. 175). We anticipate that the master classes and seminars will be attended by approximately 20-35 departmental majors. Department faculty will be incorporating both the performance and the classes into their curriculum; classes that will be significantly enhanced by this project include 399: Playwrighting, 310b:Experimental and International Performance Studio, 114a: Forms of Dramatic Action, and 201a:Theatre History.

### **Proposed Project**

The SIUE Department of Theatre and Dance proposes to bring Chicago-based theatre ensemble Manual Cinema to SIUE campus in September 2014 for a five-day residency as part of SIUE's Xfest. Manual Cinema will perform a world premiere full-length production (not yet titled) and will also conduct master classes, panel discussions and question/answer sessions with departmental and university students. Manual Cinema combines handmade shadow puppetry, cinematic motifs, and live sound manipulation to

create immersive theatrical stories. Using overhead projectors, paper puppets, actors in silhouette, and a live band, Manual Cinema transforms the experience of attending the cinema and imbues it with liveness, ingenuity, and theatricality. This multi-faceted approach to performance makes them an ideal ensemble for Xfest and for university students, as they draw on a wide range of disciplines and skills, which will make the master classes and workshops attractive to a wide variety of university students.

Manual Cinema will perform on Thursday, September 11. The production will be presented in the Metcalf Theatre and will be supported by departmental faculty and staff. The performance will be followed by a moderated question and answer session with the artists. Manual Cinema will also conduct a two-part master class focusing on their methods of generating material and techniques specific to the company. And finally they will appear on a moderated panel discussion regarding the alternative theatre/dance scene in the United States and the life of a non-traditional artist. Additionally, the department's design and technical students will work directly with the ensemble in the mounting of the production in the Metcalf Theatre. This direct interaction with students will be a unique opportunity for students to study with important emerging artists, and to see the direct link between their methodology/techniques (via the master classes) and the final result of their artist collaboration (via the performance.)

Manual Cinema was founded in 2010 by five Chicago artists with diverse backgrounds in theater, visual arts, and music. In their first two years of spectacle-making, they have created two feature-length, live-scored cinematic shadow puppet shows, *Ada/Ava* and *Lula del Ray*; a large-scale installation piece for the University of Chicago; *FJORDS*, a feature-length collaboration with the string quartet Chicago Q Ensemble based on the poems of Zachary Schomburg;

and *Meanwhile*, a music video commissioned by contemporary music ensemble eighth blackbird. Their work has been performed in Chicago at the MCA, Links Hall, the Poetry Foundation, the Hideout, and the Charnel House, in addition to various found spaces around the city. Nationally they have performed at the NYC Fringe Festival, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Eric Carle Museum, St. Marks NYC, and the Tank NYC.

### **Evaluation and Dissemination**

The project's dissemination will be in the form of a public performance that is open to both the university and the general Edwardsville community. It will also be in the form of the workshops and classes that are reserved for university students. Evaluation will be based on student work in the master classes/workshops, and in the students' ability synthesize and integrate the ideas and techniques from the workshops into their ongoing coursework throughout the remainder of the semester. This will take the form of ongoing studio projects as well as critical writing about the performance. Evaluation will also be based on the audience/student response forms that are provided to all Xfest audience members.

### **Budget Justification**

The total budget for SIUe xfest is \$15,760

The amount that we are requesting from the EUE fund is \$4,000

\$11,000 of this is dedicated to contractual services. This number represents the fees paid to the performing ensembles. The \$4,000 that we are requesting through the EUE fund will be used specifically for artist fees for one of the four performing ensembles.

The remaining \$4,760 of the festival budget is for travel. This number represents the cost for putting up the performing artists for the duration of their stay at the Country Hearth Inn and Suites in Edwardsville. This number is calculated as 14 rooms x 4 nights x \$85/night = \$4760

There is substantial cost-sharing support built into this project:

\$5,000	Provost's Office
\$5,000	CAS
\$1,760	Department
<u>\$4,000</u>	<i>EUE Request</i>
15,760	Total

## **Biographical Sketch**

CHUCK HARPER Curriculum Vitae 2360 Klemm Street Saint Louis, MO 63116  
253.682.8258 charper@hotcitytheatre.org

### EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts, Stage Direction, 1997 University of Washington School of Drama, Seattle, WA

Bachelor of Arts, Theatre/Dance, 1988 Western Washington University, College of Fine and Performing Arts

### TEACHING / ADMINISTRATIVE

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, IL û 2002-2013

Associate Professor, Head of Performance

Artistic Director, Xfest: A Festival of Theatrical Experimentation HotCity Theatre, St. Louis 2004-2013

Associate Director / Producing Director Greenhouse New Play Festival Ardeo Theatre Project, St. Julien IÆArs, France û 1999-2001

Associate Director/Theatre Instructor

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND TRAINING

American Federation of Radio and Television Artists (AFTRA) Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers û Associate (SSDC) Lincoln Center DirectorÆs Lab West, Pasadena CA Participant - 2003;

Presenter 2005, 2007 Saratoga International Theatre Institute Summer Intensive, Skidmore, NY

Viewpoints, Suzuki - Anne Bogart and SIT Company Pacific Performance Projects Summer Intensive, Seattle, WA 1994-1999

Viewpoints, Suzuki Training - Steve Pearson, Kenji Suzuki, KJ Sanchez

### REPRESENTATIVE PROFESSIONAL THEATRE DIRECTION

New York, NY, New York International Fringe Theatre Festival

Whammy! The Seven Secrets to a Sane Self, World Premiere, Original work conceived and created with ensemble

St. Louis, HotCityTheatre

Connected, by Lia Romeo, World Premiere

Slasher, by Allison Moore, Midwest Premiere

Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom, by J. Hale

The Scene, by Theresa Rebeck, Midwest Premiere

Kimberly Akimbo, by David Lindsay-Abaire Midwest Premiere

Adult Entertainment, by Elaine May

Prague, Czech Republic, Divadlo Na Pradle, Fringe Festival Praha

The Probe: An Inquiry into the Meteoric Rise and Spectacular Fall of Orson Welles in Hollywood, World Premiere,

Original Work Conceived and Created with Ensemble

Los Angeles, Circle X Theater, (Clown Corn Messiah)

In the Valley of the Shadow of Chet, by Casey Smith, World Premiere

Los Angeles, The Mad Scene Theatre

The Life and Times of Tulsa Lovechild, by Greg Owens

Prague, Czech Republic, Drak Divadlo and Black Box International Theatre, Berlin, Germany, FOIO Theatre

Quills, by Doug Wright European Premiere (Recipient of CEC Artslink grant for collaboration with Czech designer Pavlina McEncroe and Drak Theatre of Hradec Kralove.)

St. Julien IÆArs, France, Ardeo Theatre Project

Big Love, by Charles Mee, European Premiere

Chicago, Strawdog Theatre Company

Search and Destroy, by Howard Korder, Midwest Premiere

Wilhelm Reich in Hell, by Robert Anton Wilson, Midwest Premiere

A Family Affair, by Alexander Ostrovsky, trans. Nick Dear

Etta Jenks, by Marlane Meyer, Midwest Premier

#### REPRESENTATIVE GRANTS

NEA / Citizens Exchange Council Artslink Grant: International Partners grant for collaboration between American artists and Eastern European institutions. Primary collaboration with Czech Production Designer Pavlina McEnchroe; facilitated by Black Box International Theatre of Prague and Drak Divadlo of Hradec Kralove resulting in the European Premiere of Doug WrightÆs Quills.

SIUE Summer Research Fellowship: Internal university grant, Summer 2009. Received salary/funding to support research, text adaptation, and rehearsal of an original dance/theatre performance titled Whammy: The Seven Secrets to a Sane Self.

SIUE Funded University Research Grant: Internal university grant, Summer 2006. Received production funding for costume, scenic and sound materials for The Probe: An Inquiry into the Meteoric Rise and Spectacular Fall of Orson Welles in Hollywood.

## Support Memo – Chair



Southern Illinois University Edwardsville  
Interoffice Communication

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/24/14

FROM: James Wulfsong  
Chair, Department of Theater and Dance

SUBJECT: EUE for SIUE Xfest and Manual Cinema

I am writing in support of Chuck Harper's application to receive EUE funding. The SIUE Department of Theatre and Dance proposes to bring Chicago-based theatre ensemble Manual Cinema to SIUE campus in September 2014 for a five-day residency as part of SIUE's Xfest. Manual Cinema will perform a world premiere full-length production (not yet titled) and will also conduct master classes, panel discussions and question/answer sessions with departmental and university students. Their multi-faceted approach to performance makes them an ideal ensemble for Xfest and for university students, as they draw on a wide range of disciplines and skills, which will make the master classes and workshops attractive to a wide variety of university students.

This project will expose students to styles of theatre, and to a group of performing artists, that they would not otherwise encounter in their studies at SIUE. Students will be afforded the opportunity to not only work with these master artists in an intensive workshop environment, but will also be able to view the artists current work, which in this case will be the premiere of an original devised work. Though this project will primarily serve departmental majors, the performances are open to the public (seating capacity for the single performance is app. 150-175). We anticipate that approximately 20-35 departmental majors will attend the master classes and seminars.

I give this project my highest level of support and hope that EUE funding can be found to help us bring this exciting and new opportunity to our students and SIUE's Campus.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
**EDWARDSVILLE**

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, OFFICE OF THE DEAN

**To:** Excellence in Undergraduate Education

**From:** Wendy Shaw, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences



**Subject:** Dean's Memo of Support

**Date:** 24 January, 2014

The College of Arts and Sciences supports the application of Professor Chuck Harper for an EUE grant. As the Chair of his department indicates, this project would enrich the experience of students and provide important opportunities for hands-on learning. Xfest has also become a hallmark of SIUe's summer experience in recent years and performances attract community members to campus.

**Support Memo – International Studies**

**Prior EUE Support**

Project Director	Project Number	Award Amount	Project Dates

**Prior Results**

**Additional Information on Prior Projects**

