

2012 Professional Development Grant Report

National Communication Association Convention Presentation

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B. Restatement of Creative Work / Professional Enhancement Activity

In November 2012, I attended the National Communication Association Convention in Orlando, Florida. The NCA convention is a national conference. The Association's website is as follows:

<http://www.natcom.org/>

C. Brief Review of Creative Work / Professional Enhancement Activity

I presented as part of the Theatre, Film, and New Media Division. My paper, "The Stock Aesthetic: The Case for Permanent and Versatile Scenography," looks at scene design praxis in contemporary theatre. Specifically, it explores the costs/benefits of building production-unique scenic elements in small theatres. I make the case that the costs---both in financial and human terms---must be weighed against the gains of standard production practice.

In addition to my own panel, I attended several others which explored topics like disability studies and which introduced me to some cutting edge performers / performance troupes.

D. Summary of Outcomes / Experiences

My paper received positive feedback. I took a number of questions after the presentation. Several scholars said that they intended to read the paper in its entirety (it was available through the NCA's conference website).

My exploration of scenographic praxis ties in very much to my job as a teacher and director of theatre at Arkansas Tech. Theatre courses require an understanding of design and technical elements. Theatrical productions require the use of design and technical elements. As theatre director, I must explore ways to incorporate these elements into the production arm of the program. Design and technical theatre must be conducted efficiently in a way that provides a realistic means to positive student learning experience.

E. Conclusions and Recommendations

I will continue to revise my paper for publication. I have already submitted it to *Theatre Topics*. The ideas of the paper reflect a larger current in my thinking and have appeared in articles that I have written for Bedford-St. Martin's *LitBits* blog and also in how I endeavor to run the ATU Theatre Program.

I am extremely grateful for the Professional Development Grant.

Copies to: Prof. Anthony Caton, Department Head, Speech, Theatre, & Journalism
Dr. H. Micheal Tarver, Dean, Arts and Humanities
Dr. John Watson, Vice President, Academic Affairs

F. Appendix

Copies of my paper are available upon request.