

SHAKESPEARE IN CLARK PARK

Internship Application

Contact Information

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- **Brief description of the institution or organization.**

Shakespeare in Clark Park (SCP) is a non-profit 501(c) (3) theatre company committed to presenting free, outdoor productions of Shakespeare's plays in West Philadelphia's Clark Park. SCP was founded in the fall of 2005 with a three-fold goal: to expand Philadelphia's summertime cultural offerings, to reach a broad and diverse audience by providing free and accessible theatre, and to create risk-taking performance by re-imagining the world of the park through the work of William Shakespeare.

Shakespeare in the park is a much loved event in North America, from the Public Theatre in Central Park to small town productions presented by community groups. Though Shakespeare in the park exists in different forms in the Philadelphia area, SCP is the only professional organization dedicated solely to presenting free Shakespeare in a truly urban Philadelphia park. In 2010, SCP celebrates its fifth anniversary, having grown rapidly since its inaugural production of **Twelfth Night** in 2006. Started on a shoestring budget, SCP has become a summer institution in West Philadelphia, drawing audience numbers of over 3,000 over the course of five performances each July.

- **Brief description of a current project that might benefit from an intern's help. How many stages to a given project? Important goals or aims? With whom would the student be working?**

In 2011, SCP will produce that classic Shakespeare comedy, **Much Ado About Nothing**. An intern for SCP would play an integral role in the production of **Much Ado About Nothing**. By serving as the Production Assistant for **Much Ado About Nothing**, the intern's role would mirror the mission of SCP as an organization: hands-on creation of theatre combined with hands-on involvement in the community.

Prior to the commencement of rehearsals on June 13, the intern's time would be focused on assisting Production Manager Maria Möller and Stage Manager Katie Driscoll in pre-production organizational work, including scheduling, marketing and publicity.

After rehearsals begin on June 13, the intern's time would be divided between 10 hours a week continuing to assist the Production Manager with marketing, publicity, and the needs of the technical and design team, and 30 hours a week working as the Assistant Stage Manager.

In the role of Assistant Stage Manager, the intern would be present at all rehearsals, as well as weekly production meetings and meetings with the director, Alex Torra. During the run of the

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show, the intern would be responsible for the backstage management of actors and play an integral part in the running of the show.

- **What special skills or experiences does it offer? What skills would be essential to its successful completion? How might these skills translate into your particular workplace?**

This internship would offer a unique opportunity for the right intern. This is not an internship in an office or in a physical institution: it is an internship on the ground and in the neighborhood. As Production Assistant for SCP, the intern would not just gain valuable experience working in professional theatre. They would also learn how to create art both for a community and in the presence of a community.

Skills necessary for the successful completion of this internship include the ability to work in public under pressure, sensitivity in dealing with community issues and conflicts, the confidence to perform in a leadership role, and a strong sense of responsibility.

- **What special challenges do you imagine this internship presenting for undergraduate students?**

As the Production Assistant, the intern must have the confidence to supervise actors who may be much older than they are and to have the maturity to enter into unfamiliar community settings. We seek someone who is responsible and professional.

Within the dynamics of the rehearsal and performance world, the Stage Manager is the voice of order and authority. Her assistant must be her right hand and be just as able as she is to keep all elements of the process moving smoothly.

- **What special rewards does the internship present, for the student and for your institution?**

The core members of SCP's artistic and technical team return to Clark Park each summer, drawn by the joy of bringing free theatre to thousands of people. This type of reward is rare in the creative world, and an internship would be an inspiring opportunity to see how art can directly reach a community.

For SCP, an intern would offer us not just a much-needed extra pair of hands, but also a chance to inspire a person just beginning their career. Whether or not the intern enters the theatre as a professional, this is an opportunity for us to build the community of those who value and understand the importance of public art.

- **Where and when will the work take place? Days? Evenings? Weekends? Local travel?**

Rehearsals for **Much Ado About Nothing** will be held in West Philadelphia. As Assistant Stage Manager, the intern's rehearsal schedule will be Monday-Thursday 5:30pm – 10:30pm and Sunday 11:30am – 6:30pm, with a weekly production meeting held during the day on Fridays.

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Additional administrative work assisting the Production Manager will happen on a flexible schedule.

- **Who will supervise the student?**

Maria Möller and Katie Driscoll will be in charge of supervising the student.

Ms. Möller is the Co-Artistic Director and Co-Founder of SCP, working in the capacity of Production Manager during **Much Ado About Nothing**. She is a professional director and arts administrator, who works as a project manager for the Mural Arts Program in addition to managing development and external relations for SCP. She was the Production Manager for SCP's production of **The Comedy of Errors** .

Ms. Driscoll is Equity Member Candidate in Stage Management whose work locally includes stage management for Pig Iron Theatre Company, Nichole Canuso Dance Company, Delaware Theatre Company, and Gas & Electric Arts . She staged managed SCP's production of **The Comedy of Errors**.