

Shakespeare Ensemble Winter 2014 Finboard Budget Request

Funding account #: 2720525

Funds Requested

Operations	Operations total: \$3584
Sets (wood, furniture)	\$800
Costumes (cloth or costume purchases, jewelry)	\$700
Hair/Makeup (hairspray, stage makeup, hair supplies)	\$200
Props (various small items)	\$300
Sound (rights to sounds and software)	\$100
Lighting (rental of instruments and gels)	\$500
Gaff Tape	\$200
Paint supplies	\$200
IAP Show rights	\$240
IAP Show tech	\$200
BOT food	\$144
Printing and Publicity	Printing and Publicity total: \$100
Spring show publicity	\$100
Capital	Capital total: \$3600
Tool replacement	\$400
Dress form	\$100
New speakers and equipment and accessories to use them	\$2000
Other speaker equipment	\$600
Microphone equipment (for recording)	\$500
Events	Events total: \$485
Put-in food	\$280
Show candy	\$105
Workshops	\$100

Budget Defense

Priority level 1- show expenses (total for priority level 1: \$3,540)

The categories listed under show expenses are things our group would not be able to operate without. Cutting the budget for any of them would decrease the overall quality of our show (or, in some cases, make the show impossible), and would also decrease the ability of our members to have full creative license in their position. Please note that our spring show falls under finboard's winter allocation cycle. We have not yet selected a spring show, so specifics in some categories can't be provided.

Sets- This money will be dedicated to creating the set for our show. In the past, sets have included building tall platforms, railings, purchasing furniture, or purchasing decorations for the set, such as

flowers, picture frames, mirrors, and so on. Last semester used up our existing stock of wood, and while some of it can be reused, much will need to be purchased. Many people are involved in building the set (some members of our club exclusively build sets), and having a safe and visually pleasing set is very important to our productions. We reuse items as much as possible, but many things can't be reused and must be bought again and again.

Costumes- We are requesting \$700 for the purchase of costume materials for the show. This may include cloth to create costumes or purchasing costumes. Without costumes, our show loses much of the artistry that goes into a theater production and brings the audience out of the false reality we try to draw them into.

Hair/Makeup- Hair and Makeup supplies are constantly being used up by the ensemble. Therefore we are requesting \$200 to replenish our stock and also bring in a few new elements for this production. Basic supplies we need to buy include foundation, mascara, eyeliner, sponges for applying makeup, bobby pins, hair ties, combs, and so on. The purchase of many of these items is also a matter of safety- having new sponges and mascara wands for every application prevents infections spreading throughout the cast of the show. Purchase of makeup is also a matter of inclusion- we want to ensure that we have makeup for the variety of people and skin tones involved in the show, and having the budget to purchase more means that no one is forced to wear the wrong color of makeup. Makeup elements will work like the costumes to create a false reality and draw the audience into the setting of the play.

Props- We are requesting \$300 for the purchase and rental of props. It's impossible to perform any show without some props (such as swords in Julius Caesar, a pillow in Othello, or poison in Romeo and Juliet), and more props will add a sense of depth to the production. Since we have not yet selected a show, we do not yet know what props will be required. While many props are things we can make cheaply, others will have to be purchased. These items drive our budget upward, but the show would not be the same without them.

Sound- We are requesting \$100 for our sound budget. This gives the sound designer the freedom to purchase rights to any sounds he may wish to use that he cannot record himself. It provides us with the license to Cue Lab, the software used to play cues during the show (\$5 per day for the course of the show). It also ensures that we can purchase or replace any cables we need to properly wire the sound equipment that we use.

Lighting- We are requesting \$500 for the rental and purchase of lighting equipment for our shows. About \$450 of this is usually used for renting lighting equipment, and \$50 is used to purchase gels (the colored sheets which allow lighting designers to create various colors on stage). We rent lighting equipment from the MIT group E33. Renting the less common, more expensive instruments allows our lighting designers to further their artistic visions. It allows us to have special effects that can only be created by LED lights (which provide a wider color range and faster transitions than normal lights) and Vari-Lites (which can project more complicated colors and patterns while also moving to light various locations.)

Publicity Items- We are requesting \$100 for publicity for our spring show, although our normal publicity budget usually comes to \$300. This money will be used to print color posters at copy-tech (both as “teaser” posters far in advance of the show and normal posters closer to the show), print postcards to advertise the show (we hand these out to students as they pass our booth in Memorial Lobby, since few students have the time to stop to talk to us), and print our programs. Without our publicity budget, there would be no point in having a show at all, since no one would come to see it.

Gaff Tape- We are requesting \$200 in gaff tape. This tape is used to tape extension cords to floors, tape lighting cords to each other (so they don’t pull apart under the force of gravity), tape paper to door jams to prevent loud slamming noises during performances, and to serve a variety of other important uses in the theater world. We use a surprising amount of Gaff tape during every show, and would like \$200 to keep our stock supplied so we don’t run out in the middle of hanging lights.

\$200 of painting supplies and paint- Items such as natural sponges, metallic paint, stencil paper, exacto knives, and a supply of primary colors of paint will make our painting more professional looking. Paintbrushes of various sizes and types are also needed, and often get ruined in the process of creating a show. Large amounts of paint are also needed to paint our stage. Stage colors change from show to show, and stages are usually large and require several coats of paint, so several gallons of paint usually need to be purchased.

IAP show rights- for our IAP show, we will be performing Stop Kiss by Diana Son. The rights for this show cost \$80 per performance. Our IAP shows give our members a chance to direct shows, a great opportunity for them to take what they’ve learned under our professional directors and apply it themselves. Without the rights to this show, we cannot legally put it on. We are currently planning to have 3 performances.

IAP show tech- Our IAP show will be at a much lower technical level than our term shows, but we still need some props, costumes, and set pieces. \$200 will cover these necessities and bring the play from the level of “silly students doing a skit” to “serious students putting on a low-budget production”.

Priority level 2- new speaker system and other capital purchases

(total for priority level 2: \$2,500)

\$400 for tool replacement- Our tools wear out and break from normal use, so we would like to have part of our budget to fix and replace things as needed. This might include sharpies, screwdrivers, drill bits, and drills, but might also include “tools” for hair and makeup use, such as brushes, combs, clips, and sponges.

\$100 Dress form- dress forms are alterable dummies used to make clothes on. Having one would help our costumes crew to make adjustments and alterations to clothes that have been purchased, or make our own costumes.

\$2000 for new speakers and the equipment and accessories to use them- In the past, we have borrowed sound equipment from MTG, who is usually kind enough to lend us their system. However, there have been some instances when we weren't sure whether or not we would be able to borrow their equipment. If this ever were to happen, or if we were ever to have our shows at the same time, we would not be able to have any sound or music in our performance. One of our members is very excited about a project to build speakers for us that fully fit our needs. The materials he needs include: the equipment to build two speakers (such as woofers, speaker dishes, foam, fiberglass, C Clamps, handles, wire, solder, and so on) at about \$550 per speaker plus a one-time cost of \$350, a lightweight amplifier for playing back sound at \$360, 2 long speaker cables for ceiling mounted speakers at \$60 each, and 4 of the connections for these cables at \$3 each

Priority level 3- food (total for priority level 3: \$529)

Put-in food- Put-in is about 17 hours long, so we think it should be counted within the finboard guidelines as 2 events. During Put-in, we have to put up all the lights, sets, and so on needed for our show. We feed breakfast and lunch to about 20 people (including anyone who wants to come help with put-in, an opportunity open to the entire MIT community), so we are requesting \$7 per person per meal, for a total of \$280

Show candy- During our show, our actors and techies get hungry. We would like to request \$7 per person for a candy budget. Together, actors and techies are probably about 15 people, so this comes to \$105. Candy is given to anyone helping out with the show, an opportunity open to the entire MIT community.

BOT food- During our Beginning of Term meeting, we would like to feed our members dinner. BOT is required for all official members of the ensemble, of which we will have 24 next term. At \$6 per person, this comes to \$144

Priority level 4- workshops and other sound capital purchases

(total for priority level 4: \$1,200)

Workshops- This semester, we would like to bring in professionals to help teach workshops to the MIT community on a variety of topics. We would like to be able to provide materials for these workshops and to pay these professionals, so we are requesting \$50 per workshop. We believe we will be able to set up no more than 2 professionally taught workshops during the winter allocation cycle.

Other speaker equipment- the equipment for our speaker system listed above would give us a sufficient sound system. However, with additional equipment, our sound system would be better organized and have more sonic creative possibilities. An additional \$600 would allow us to purchase an audio interface for recording and multichannel playback and a rack for housing the equipment, making it easier to access and less likely to be damaged.

Microphone equipment: Currently, we record our shows using a small video camera, or by borrowing recording equipment from other groups. In general, this means our show recordings have quite terrible sound. We, as a Shakespeare group, are in a unique position among theater groups at MIT in that we are allowed to record our shows and post the recordings online (most other shows performed on campus can't do this for copyright reasons). Improving the sound quality in our videos would both make them better for ourselves, our families, and future Ensemble members, but would also provide outreach by making our performances available online in higher quality to the general public. The cables, mics, and power strips needed for this endeavor cost about \$500.