

## Miller, Judith

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**From:** Eastern Washington University  
**Sent:** Friday, January 6, 2023 1:50 PM  
**To:** Miller, Judith  
**Subject:** New S&A Funding Request Submission  
**Attachments:** FY24-Budget-Request-Spreadsheet.xlsx

New S&A Funding Request received!

### Requesting Organization

University Theatre

### Requester's Contact Information

#### Name

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[Map It](#)

### Budget Request and History

#### Attach Budget Request Spreadsheet (found at top of form)

- [FY24-Budget-Request-Spreadsheet.xlsx](#)

#### Please select which represents your request best?

FY23 Budget Request

#### Please provide a summary of your dept/prog/unit.

In addition to classroom studies (Theatre Major, Minor and BAE), the Theatre program offers valuable "hands-on" experience in virtually every phase of theatrical production, whether it be acting, directing, singing, costuming, dance or a myriad of technical and design skills. The University Theatre offers an award winning and regionally recognized public performance program comprised of a minimum of three main-stage shows every academic year. The 2022-23 season is Twenty six Pebbles, Twelfth Night the Musical, and Tick Tick Boom (musical) . Our University Theatre season is chosen for balance and variety. Productions range from classical to modern plays and musicals. Plays are produced in the University Theatre located in the Fine Arts Complex. Student Activity fees have provided the essential funding to bring quality theatre to the University community since 1970.

#### How does your dept/prog/unit plan to spend the awarded funds?

Wages Total- \$34,000  
Scene shop foreman (non-student employee) \$13,000  
Student \$23,610  
1 publicity \$4,722.00  
2 technicians \$9,444.00  
2 Costume \$9,444.00

Service Agreements Total- \$22,175.00

Musical Director \$3,000.00  
Assistant Musical Director \$1,500.00  
Guest Designer \$3,000.00  
Guest Director \$3,000.00  
Dance choreographer \$1,500.00  
Orchestra \$2,600.00  
Guest Actor \$750.00  
Sound \$2,000.00  
Royalties \$4,000.00  
KCACTF participation fee \$825.00

Supplies Total- \$23,500.00  
Play Scripts \$500.00  
Costumes \$10,000.00  
Set \$13,000.00

**Did your dept/prog/unit receive funds in FY23?**

Yes

**If you answered yes to the previous question, please submit the total amount received.**

62,000

**Salaries, Benefits, & Wages**

**Does your request include any staff salaries/benefits, and/or student wages?**

Yes

**How many UNDERGRADUATE student employees are being supported by S&A funding?**

4

**How many GRADUATE student employees are being supported by S&A funding?**

0

**How many CLASSIFIED staff are being supported by S&A funding?**

0

**How many ADMINISTRATIVE staff are being supported by S&A funding?**

0

**How many FACULTY staff are being supported by S&A funding?**

0

**Please confirm that you have budgeted for all salary increases, according to the Budget Assumptions outlined, and that number will be included in your direct expense figure when you build your budget**

- Yes

**Impact From Funding**

**How does your dept/prog/unit collaborate with other departments, programs, units?**

The theatre program works with many units across campus. We work with English, Creative Writing Music, Film and Art. English classes study the plays we produce every quarter and participate in guest lectures and talkbacks. FYE classes attended preview performance of "Rent". We produce original works and participate in GET LIT! We loan Music mics, furniture and props for operas. Music students audition for our musicals and play in our orchestra. Music Technology works on our live audio mix for musicals. We produce plays that are relevant and include diverse characters and themes that are of interest to many groups on campus. We collaborated with the EWU Women in Science Symposium and all of the participants of the symposium attended "Silent Sky". We worked with EWU choirs to sing the choral numbers (pre-recorded) for our Spring 2021 musical, "Songs for A New World" and the Film program filmed so that it could be streamed. We won outstanding interdisciplinary collaboration for that show. Music Technology students did the audio mix for Rent (fall 2021) and will again this winter/spring (2023) . 26 Pebbles also drew a lot of interest from disciplines across campus due to it's themes of community and gun violence prevention.

**How does your dept/prog/unit collaborate with outside stakeholders?**

Our faculty, staff and students regularly assist/advice with programming theatre activities at public schools, community colleges, theatres, recreation organizations and professional theatres in the Inland Northwest. EWU Theatre is a major contributor to the local artistic culture of the Spokane region. We have developed that reputation in two ways. First, the quality of our production speaks for itself. We are regularly recognized by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre festival for excellence in theatrical production. But it is the choice of plays that has most community impact. We specifically chose *Rent*, as a vehicle to create (restore) a sense of community and inclusivity. Several of our recent plays were regional ( *26 Pebbles*, *Silent Sky*, *The Vibrator Play*, or in the *Next Room*, *Pocatello*) or world (*Ode*, *We are a Poem*) debuts. We maintain a successful momentum in community outreach—choosing plays that provoke discussion, capitalize on current issues, and cannot be seen elsewhere. We drew a lot of interest and participation from local schools for *26 Pebbles* (fall 2022)

**How does your dept/prog/unit contribute to the local/regional community?**

The theatre program has been a special place within Washington for educating theatre practitioners for many years. Our program goals are directly related to the University's focus on Igniting Change, Embracing Equity and Social Justice and Driving Innovation. The current strategic plan specifically says: "Emphasize the vital role of the fine and performing arts in our culture and economy by identifying and supporting signature programs in the arts. In the fall of 2021, we were invited to perform scenes from our Musical, *Rent* to the BOT. One of the goals in producing that Musical was to bring further awareness to Transgender awareness week and Transgender day of Remembrance. We also made a replica of the Aids Quilt and on the back we included the "Progress Pride Flag". Our program strives to include diverse voices in every element of production. (onstage and backstage). We were again mentioned in the BOT meeting (fall 2022) by President McMahan for outstanding work on "*26 Pebbles*" she was particularly moved by the themes of the play and the talent, courage of our students to tell some of the most difficult stories. The quality and reputation of our performance program has grown exponentially. Theatre adds to the culture of our region and we have robust attendance from our community.

**What impact(s) does this dept/prog/unit have on campus? Briefly describe the need for your dept/prog/unit. How does your dept/prog/unit support the mission and/or goals of EWU?**

Our program offers unique opportunities to the academic and cultural climate of EWU. We create theatre to connect and communicate with the people around us. We ask questions, "Can these issues be spoken of? Is it possible for this person to have a conversation with that person? Can we, together, arrive at a different and more nuanced perspective? Can articulate the complex issues of the human condition that need to be addressed?" We invite an audience into the theatre in the hopes that something will happen. The value of our creative work can be measured by the extent to which the audience is able to access a familiar or unfamiliar world and become engaged to a degree that they understand something about themselves that they did not know before coming to the theatre. When students return to our shows year after year, when I read letters from audience members that express immense gratitude, and when students expand their definition of what it means to be human our mission is affirmed. It is also profound to hear so many students say they had no idea they loved theatre because they had never been or had only been to a K-12 performance. We also offer the university quite a bit of visibility through attendance at our shows and a consistent engagement on social media.

**How does your dept/prog/unit assess the effectiveness of your programs/services and how is it tracked?**

Our program is reviewed on a regular basis. Evaluations are largely focused on the success of our public performance program. Here are excerpts from audience emails, "Huge congratulations to a spectacular production of *RENT*! This production couldn't have come at a better time and created such a cathartic space to celebrate live theatre again. The performances by all were absolutely heartbreakingly beautiful. Your vision of 90s NYC was so thoughtfully executed and you fully embraced the heart of this play, which I find in other recent productions I'd seen (pre Covid) had lacked. I reflected on the people I'd lost over the last almost two years. There was some healing that took place and I just want to thank you both for bringing this production to the region. "One thing that I enjoy with EWU theatre is how diverse and inclusive it is of statures, ethnicity, skills, genders, etc., all working together nicely. You're doing amazing work." From the Spokesman-Sara Goff worked her magic and students were beyond incredible in today's performance of the current play, *26 Pebbles*. Who could have guessed that the devastating December, 2012 shooting in a first-grade classroom at Sandy Hook Elementary could transform into intense and wide-ranging community healing through, ultimately, love.

**Financial Responsibility**

**What are the top funding priorities for your dept/prog/unit and is any of this funding for contracts? If so, how much?**

Actual expenditures align very closely to our requested budgets. Non-student and Student labor are the most important but equally important are the materials to produce theatre. The 2016-2020 levels of funding, enabled us to fully realize many of our program goals. We have always used our revenue to offset the difference in the SAF allotment verses the initial request and to invest/replace equipment. Due to 21/22 funding levels we made significant cuts to programming and we charged students a \$5.00 admission fee to attend shows. The service agreement component is \$22,175 Wages (5/6 students and 1 non-student) \$34,000. The ability to hire non-work study is essential. Please let me know if I can be more specific with our budget needs.

**How does your dept/prog/unit track and manage your budgets to ensure financial sustainability?**

The entire theatre faculty has input on the budget request. We are individually held responsible as faculty for all of our purchases. We work diligently to reconcile our credit card purchases and work with Judy Miller in student accounting. Our

purchases are also reviewed by the purchasing office at the end of the fiscal year. We have regular program meetings to track our spending, traditionally at the end of each quarter. We spend according to our budget and we try to save some of our revenue for maintenance and future investments in equipment because we don't have other reliable funding sources.

**How will you ensure that student fees do not subsidize non-student use?**

We track audience attendance via online ticket sales. We track direct student involvement via cast lists and crew assignments and audition sheets. 2, 282 people attended shows from Pride and Prejudice to 26 Pebbles (Winter 2022, Spring, Fall quarters of 2022). 1, 340 of those in tickets were current EWU Students, so roughly 57% which is amazing. Between 2, 233 and 3,345 (or more) people attended EWU shows from Fall of 2020 "She Kills Monsters" to Fall 2021 "Rent" Of that number we believe at least 1300 were EWU students. Additionally, roughly 175 students actively participate on-stage, backstage and front of house during an academic year. We have 30 students currently cast in our Musical, "Twelfth Night"! We successfully produced our first virtual theatre production in Fall of 2020 and had 779 device purchases. If you averaged 2 people per device that estimates 1, 558 people streamed. Our Spring Quarter 2021 musical, "Songs for a New World" had 331 device purchases. Many of those devices had more than one viewer. Our fall 2021 production of Rent was completely sold out (5 performances) and we had 500 student ticket sales.

**Engagement**

**Please share the number of STUDENTS your dept/prog/unit serves annually.**

1,515


**Please share the number of OUTSIDE STAKEHOLDERS your dept/prog/unit serves annually.**

1,000

**Any additional information or considerations you would like the S&A Committee to have:**

Attendance records support the fact that students make up the most significant portion of our audiences: 51% in 2014, 59% in 2015, 61% in 2016 and 46% 2017, 48% in 2018 and 53% 2019-2020 and 57% in 21-22. We cast our shows from the student body and EWU students work backstage and front of house on all of our productions. Faculty, staff and community members pay \$10.00. For the first time we did charge students \$5.00 to attend (most shows) to close the gap in the reduced funding levels.

**Acknowledgment**

 I confirm that the details included in this budget request are accurate to the best of my knowledge and are fully aware of S&A Fee regulations.