

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Shakespeare Uncork'd Grant Recipient from Beloved Teacher

Shakespeare Uncork'd Walla Walla has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Mary Garner Esary Trust. The Trust is funded by the estate of the lifelong teacher and librarian Mary Garner. Although she had no children of her own, she dedicated herself to the education of the community. As education was her life, the Trust is focused to support programs which broaden educational opportunities in schools and libraries. In a letter notifying the group of the award Trustee Robert Zagelow stated "The cooperation you have received from local schools demonstrates to me how successful the program has been to date, and I envision the reach and scope of the programs will continue to grow in the future."

The announcement came as plans were being finalized to create ongoing arts education programs in area schools. A primary mission for the nonprofit group is to partner with schools to bring professional Shakespeare to the classroom for students to study through performance. For the second year the volunteer board is bringing Seattle Shakespeare Company actors and teachers to local schools. Workshops are conducted to "uncork" the mystery of William Shakespeare and illustrate the continued relevance of his work in contemporary times. Students will stretch their writing, listening, speaking and performing skills through a variety of acting sessions, vocal work and acting exercises. Though the mainstay of Shakespearean acting is through voice and speech, instruction will also tap into the more physical realm of slapstick and stage combat, discovering how it also contributes to the work.

Uncork'd Executive Board President Dennis Ledford said "We are proud to be recognized by such a likeminded estate, and we honor Mary Garner and promote her legacy by contributing to education in the arts."

The 2009 production *Taming of the Shrew* will be set in rural America with performances Wednesday August 5th through Sunday August 9th.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and 8\$ for seniors & children 12 and under

Tickets are on sale at

Coldwell Banker First Realtors

Walla Walla Community College
Loney's Supermarket
Book & Game
Earth Light Book Store
Tourism Walla Walla Outlet East Main
On line at www.shakespeareuncorked.org

The media is welcome to attend Opening Night. An area, deemed the best vantage point for photography, will be reserved. To keep you from chasing around at the event, we will accommodate interviews with the principals. Please contact us in advance to arrange a time and place.

MEDIA CONTACT: Dennis Ledford 509.520.2070

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Defining Uncork'd

On many levels the term to uncork, to open and to reveal, is what Shakespeare Uncork'd is all about. One obvious portion of our relationship to the term Uncork'd is - we are located in Washington wine country and we appreciate the contribution it makes to our lifestyles. In addition, the contemporary approach and presentation of Seattle Shakespeare Company as it "uncorks" and relieves our apprehensions, achieving the accessibility we strive for with this project. We recognize the necessity of uncorking the magic of Shakespeare to the masses. We identify with the human condition addressed by Shakespeare, and recognize that it has not changed much in hundreds of years. With Shakespeare school workshops and summer camp we strive to awaken empathy to the human condition and the art of Shakespeare. It is there we introduce youth and young adults to his keen observations and ways of telling a story. Opening the magic, understanding and experiencing what is known to us as Shakespeare; this is the meaning of the name Shakespeare Uncork'd.