



Wayne College

1901 Smucker Road
Orrville, OH 44667

800-221-8308

CONTACT: Cindy Summers
330-684-8786
FAX 330-684-8989
E-mail: csummers@uakron.edu

SUMMARY: WAYNE COLLEGE RECEIVES FIRST OHIO ARTS COUNCIL GRANT FOR SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Orrville, Ohio, Aug. 16, 2007 – The University of Akron Wayne College has received a \$2,619 grant from the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) for the college's ninth annual Shakespeare Festival. The grant will help defray the expense involved in hosting the productions.

The Ohio Arts Council's mission as a state agency is to fund and support quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically. The council scores grant requests on four criteria: artistic/educational/cultural merit, community participation, evaluation and planning, and organizational/financial merit. The review panel for Wayne College's grant noted last year's record-high attendance and the positive audience survey responses.

The festival will feature the acting troupe American Shakespeare Center on Tour. This troupe, formerly known as Shenandoah Shakespeare's Blackfriar's Stage Company, has been featured by Wayne College in its eight previous Shakespeare festivals.

"One reason we invite the American Shakespeare Center is the educational programming that they bring to the festival," says Wayne College Dean Jack Kristofco. "We hold a Friday morning performance that is exclusively for area high school students, and we have roughly 400 teenagers enjoying Shakespeare each year. It's a great show; folks should come prepared to have a good time."

The troupe also conducts workshops after the Friday morning performance that include sessions about how Shakespeare's plays were performed when he was alive and how actors swordfight on stage.

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The Shakespeare Festival will be held Friday, Sept. 21 and Saturday, Sept. 22, and will include productions of *The Taming of the Shrew* and *The Merchant of Venice*. Wayne College is located at 1901 Smucker Road in Orrville. For more information, call 330-684-8786.

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