

Cover Sheet

May 1, 2008

1. Proposal Title

The Life of Saint Clare: a theatrical project and symposia

2. Name of Person submitting Proposal

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4.  Bannan Grant

5. IGDANC

Robin Jigour

x4989

6. Yes

7. \$9800

8. \$5000

The Bannan Center Funding will be necessary for support of the fully produced theatrical work in the mission of the Life of Saint Clare. Other sources of funding will only cover auxiliary events and symposia.

Kristin Kusanovich

### 1. Title

The Life of Saint Clare: A Theatrical Project and Symposia

### 2. Statement of Purpose

To create a multi-faceted university wide exploration of and dialogue around the themes and life of St. Clare of Assisi. The featured event would be a theatrical rendition of the life of St. Clare, fully produced and performed in the Mission Church in Winter Quarter 2010 and directed by Mark Larson and Kristin Kusanovich (The Rich Boy, Morning Prayers, The Book of Ruth, The Book of Job, Prometheus Bound, Noche Oscura.)

Our goal would be to create a series of lectures and symposia, workshops and classroom visits that would supplement the exploration of the life of St. Clare and the meaning of her identity to us today. The supplementary events would be coordinated by Jean Molesky-Poz (Religious Studies.)

Working and dwelling at a place called Santa Clara we use her name everyday. But how many of us have developed a personal understanding or relationship to her life? The theatrical performance, featuring a cast of actors and movers, would explore the identity of Clare, the extraordinary reality of her life and calling, and allow students, staff, faculty and visitors to reflect on her spiritual journey in light their own spiritual landscape to discover, ultimately, how her story converges with or diverges from their own. The intentional naming and claiming of identity is a significant consciousness for a person and for an institution, and often motivates and clarifies presence, movement, and activity in the world. While we have a rather clear consciousness of SCU as a Jesuit university begotten by St. Ignatius of Loyola, we feel that the identity and meaning of Clare is a mystery to most. Turning to her, we investigate her unique consciousness, her leadership and her life to discover more deeply how it might shape SCU's identity, our relations with one another, and our work in the world.

### 3. Methods

The creation of this work would involve a full year of collaborative, campus wide planning and be implemented in Winter of 2010. Directors Mark Larson (Former Artist in Residence for Loyola RLC and theatre and film director) and Kristin Kusanovich (Theatre & Dance Department, Liberal Studies Program, Co-Director Justice and the Arts Initiative ) would write the script based on Clare's writings and letters in collaboration with students, staff and

faculty to create this special performance event. Our purpose would be to engage members of the university community and mentor a group of students in a creative process that is interdisciplinary, challenging and compels the viewer to want to engage in the material, the story of her life as told through various lenses. We would build on the relationships we have established with various professors and staff through previous projects, and would look to eventually want to tour the piece to other Jesuit or Catholic universities.

We would look to secure dates for the Mission Church, and would attempt to include a wide array of courses, finding ways to incorporate the study of Clare into the syllabi or activities of the classes. Thus we would have much opportunity for interdisciplinary dialogue . Below are a sampling of possible courses that could be tied in to the themes of this project.

ARTH 011 Western Culture: Art History I  
ARTH 012 Western Culture: Art History II

ENGL 68 Literature and Women  
ENGL 141 Studies in Medieval Literature

HIST 012 Western Civilizations: Medieval and Early Modern  
HIST 117 State Church in the Middle Ages: 1000-1450

HIST 125 Medieval European Women  
HIST 126 Conflicts in Medieval Christianity  
HIST 127 The World of St. Francis  
HIST 192 Seminar in Medieval or Early Modern Europe

RSOC 41 Women's Spiritualities  
RSOC 066 Medieval Christianity

TESP 51 Catholic Theology: Spirituality  
TESP 55 Spirituality and Literature  
TESP 71 Mysticism in Catholicism  
TESP 82 Witches, Heretics and Saints  
TESP 131 Feminist Theology  
TESP 175 Women's Theology from the Margins

Theatre 151 Fashion, Politics & Issues of Gender  
Theater 167 Gender and Performance

#### 4. Timetable

The rehearsal and planning period would be Fall 2009-Fall 2010 and the project would be implemented in Winter 2010.

The additional events that would be coordinated by Jean Molesky-Poz would be worked in to this 1.5 year timeline.

To build a critical mass for these performances, several activities are envisioned:

- Soliciting Chairs of department to schedule courses in Winter quarter 2010 that in some way would inquire into Clare through literature, mysticism, history, religious studies, Christianity. See listings above;
- Involving Centers at SCU to participate and build related activities;
- Sponsoring a day long workshop on Women in the Church to coincide with these performances;
- Partnering with and seeking support from the American Academy of Religion, the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, the Franciscan School at GTU, religious orders of women in the Greater Bay Area, lay women in the Church, perhaps the Poor Clares; financial sponsorship some via the American Academy of Religion, SCU, perhaps diocesan support, etc.;
- Creating outreach opportunities to the Catholic community in the south Bay, especially, St. Clare parish in Santa Clara, and to our general community and leaders in Santa Clara and San Jose.

##### 5. Relevance to past and future teaching and research of applicant

This proposed project is another manifestation of the cross-fertilization of spirituality and theatrical exploration that has driven much of my work over the years. The merging of faith and action, of history and imagination, and the alternating female (Ruth) or male (Job, San Juan de la Cruz) protagonists in our work call us to different intellectual and personal challenges. The Clare project presents an opportunity to do in-depth research, to awaken our consciousness of this revered but too distant figure, and to bring her presence to campus in its most incarnate form, through the performing arts.

##### 6. Relevance to Bannan Institute Criteria

The ethics and aesthetics of the piece will allow participants and audience to investigate the role of this particular woman in the Church, in her familiar and societal relations, in relationship to St. Francis, and to consider the larger picture of women whose lives and wisdom have often been relegated to silence and sometimes invisibility. This performance, and related activities, would focus on women's wisdom, the articulation of the love of God, of one another, and of our consciousness . . . we would be turning to Clare to understand how in her context, she experienced the Divine and lived out of that relationship. Through

this experience it is my hope that we would see our surroundings anew, having found a quickening, a palpable presence of how Clare emanates through time and touches us now. Finding God through how this woman found God, making what is ubiquitous suddenly perceptible and significant, this would be our venture.

#### 7. Recent Grants/Fellowships Received

Arts Council Silicon Valley First 5 Arts Residency Grant for Visiting Master Artist, 2005-2008

Tapestry Arts in the Community Grants, 2004-2007.

Bridge and Gate Culture Foundation Grant to direct Malan Flower, a collaboration with artists from Beijing and Shanghai at the Flint Center, Cupertino, 2005.

Markkula Center Hackworth Grant for "Ethics and Esthetics" A Stance in Dance" presented at International Conference on Dance, Ethics and Politics in Helsinki, 2004.

Center for Science, Technology and Society Grant and Dean's Travel Grant to assist with travel and lodging for dance and technology project at MIT Media Lab in summer of 2003 with Seymour Papert, Marvin Minsky and Jacques d'Amboise.

Bannan Grant for Noche Oscure- the poems of San Juan de la Cruz, The Book of Job, The Book of Ruth video installation, Morning Prayers movement, music and writing intensives and performance and The Rich Boy, a theatrical adaptation of F.Scott Fitzgerald's short story at Mayer Theatre, 2001-2007.

Santa Clara University Fellowship for Technology Innovation for developing and directing International project, Dancing on the Web, Dancing over the Ocean with Senegal, 2001.

#### 8. Publications or other results of most recent internal grant completed

Explore Magazine

Larson and Kusanovich collaborated on a film and a theatre piece that were presented at the Book of Job conference in SCU in the spring of 2005.

After receiving the Markkula Center Hackworth Grant for "Ethics and Esthetics" A Stance in Dance" for which I developed new curriculum on dance and ethics for SCU's Theatre and Dance Department, my paper on the subject was presented at International Conference on Dance, Ethics and Politics in Helsinki, 2004.

Anticipated impact of project on student learning

We feel that we offer a distinctly different approach to theatre that is compelling, intense and helps students reckon with new material and issues. Students feel drawn to our work, as they sense that in our projects we are speaking to our current times and acknowledging the realities of the world even in our most imaginative trajectories. Also, as we face serious environmental issues, it is significant to turn to the essentially Franciscan vision in terms of eco-sophia, which moves beyond simply a sustainable environment to attitudes and actions that recognize and celebrate the presence of God in all creation, in the poor, and in our loving relations with one another, and investigates our role in our kinship with creation. It is significant for students to encounter the cross-fertilization of the Jesuit ideals with these other traditions, and to gain new knowledge in history, theology, philosophy, women's studies and the arts through this process of encounter, dialogue and discovery.

#### Assessment plan for evaluating success of project

At Noche Oscura, in February 2008, we held our first series of artist talk backs, and by demand continued this after each performance. It was so successful and the feedback was so strong and positive from students, staff and faculty, that we would build this component in to every performance (post-performance.) This is the most immediate way to evaluate the success of the centerpiece of the project. Additionally, we have found that dialoging with other faculty and staff on ways to tie in our projects to curriculum has yielded great results. Faculty who have sent their classes to our previous performances of Book of Ruth, or Book of Job, or Noche Oscura, for example, have assigned reflection papers and held discussions that we are a part of . This gives us a sense of how much the project taking place really facilitated growth in the understanding or awareness of all involved.

#### 9. Itemized Budget

##### Income

Bannan Institute Grant	5000	Would cover all expenses of Production
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Note: We would solicit other sources for approximately \$4800 to cover all of the expenses of supporting events: Guest lecturers, workshops, symposia, etc. So that the total income being sought for all events that quarter would be \$9800. The Bannan Grant request is for the main performance event in the Mission Church, to ensure that this centerpiece is in place and has the necessary funding to succeed.

##### Expenses

Guest Director Mark Larson	1500	Contrs
Choreographer K.Kusanovich	500	Facsal
Stage Manager	300	Swage
Lighting Design	300	Stfsal
Sound Design	100	Stfsal
Musicians/Performers	500	Contrs
Costume Design	400	Facsal

Rehearsal Assistant	120	Swage
Videographer	150	Swage
Equipment and Materials		
Modular, flexible, pallet Stage	350	Supply
Costume Materials	200	Supply
Props	100	Supply
Refreshments for Discussions	100	Spcevt
Copying/Printing/PR and Programs		
	250	Reprod
Benefits	130	Benexp
Total Expenses	<u>5000</u>	