

FACULTY ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITY (FEO) APPLICATIONDUE March 20, 2009Name (last, first): Remshardt, RalfUF ID: 7907-4700Type of Appointment (check): tenured tenure-track
 clinical other ()Date of Appointment to UF Faculty (month/year): 08/1994Date Tenure Awarded, if applicable, (month/year): 07/2000College: Fine ArtsDepartment: School of Theatre and DanceTotal Central FEO Funds Requested: \$16,721Total College/Department Funds to be Provided: \$500Any Other Funds to be Applied, if applicable: n/aGRAND TOTAL FOR FEO: \$17,221

ABSTRACT: (Provide **one** paragraph describing your proposed FEO project in a way that can be understood by colleagues outside your discipline, alumni, and educated members of the general public.

"Muse of Fire/Muse of Light: Theatre and the Rise of Motion Pictures"

I have been granted a two-semester (half-pay) research sabbatical for the academic year 2009-10. During this year, I plan to bring several projects, both creative and scholarly, to fruition. The one to be supported by the FEO is a book manuscript now in progress with the title "Muse of Fire/Muse of Light: Theatre and the Rise of Motion Pictures" which concerns the nexus between live performance and cinema from pre- or proto-cinematic forms of spectacle in the late 18th century through the emergence of cinema in the 1890s to the maturing interactions between both media around the first World War. It is clear that the process was far more complex (and more interesting) than has often been suggested by both theatre and film scholars, and that it hinged on a series of what might be termed "intermedial negotiations." Some of the topics to be addressed are Romanticism, melodrama, and the invention of dynamic space in the 19th century; Shakespeare on silent film; the "cult of memory" for the stage in early cinema; and the hybridization of acting. The research for this interdisciplinary book is well under way, and so far has generated a number of independent articles and presentations (see my cv for details). However, teaching and production obligations in my own School have forced me to put significant and sustained work on hold until I could find the necessary time and resources to travel to theatre and film archives, view and evaluate a large body of primary materials (in particular, early silent films), and begin drafting the manuscript in its final shape. I now have that opportunity.

Please submit a two page *curriculum vitae* / resume with your application.

GOALS FOR FEO:

(List 3 to 5 succinct goals)

1. Visit several national and international film archives (including Stiftung deutsche Kinemathek, Bundesarchiv Filmarchiv Berlin, and British Film Institute, London) to complete primary research for the project.
2. Draft two chapters (of a projected six). [NB: The goal is to draft the entire book during my sabbatical, which extends beyond the immediate dates of the FEO.]
3. Secure an academic publisher and contract for the book.
4. Disseminate some of my research findings (through conference presentations).

FEO PLAN/ACTIVITIES/SCHEDULES:

(Describe in the space allotted on pp. 2-3 of this form; plan cannot exceed one calendar year.)

August, 2009: Complete outline of project, taking recent scholarship into account; clarify chapter boundaries; determine locations and materials for archival research; make travel plans and arrangements for archival viewing.

This crucial preparatory phase will take place in Gainesville. Even though I have an existing outline and prospectus for the book and have done research in film archives on previous overseas trips, I need to assess the state of scholarship since I put the project aside and determine which films need to be reviewed, and where secondary materials are located. This preparation also involved the logistics of accessing the materials, obtaining permissions, etc.

September, 2009: Projected two-week stay in Berlin and London for intensive work in film and theatre archives, including Stiftung deutsche Kinemathek and British Film Institute. If necessary, excursions to other archives may be added if they appear of benefit (Filmmuseum Munich; Amsterdam Film Museum; Cinémathèque Française). I have worked in most of these archives on previous occasions and am familiar with their institutional culture and infrastructure.

Late September - early October, 2009: Work on draft of chapter 1.

October 8-11, 2009: Attend German Studies Association (GSA) annual meeting in Washington, D.C. to give paper on German playwright, Falk Richter.

October 12-20, 2009: Archival research at the Library of Congress Motion Pictures division in Washington and Museum of Modern Art film library in New York.

October 20-November 30, 2009: In Gainesville, working on drafts of chapters 1 and 2. Contact publishers and send out sample chapters as requested.

FEO PLAN/ACTIVITIES/SCHEDULES: (Continued: page 2 of 2)

[The following falls outside of the time span covered in this application, but is part of my sabbatical planning]

December, 2009 - May, 2010: In Gainesville, continuing to draft and refine chapters 1 through 6.

Summer, 2010: Complete draft manuscript and submit to publisher.

OUTCOMES OF FEO: (Remember that you will be asked to submit a report of your accomplishments at the conclusion of the FEO. Please prepare this section with that report in mind.)

A. List specific outcomes of this FEO related to your own professional growth and development.

Outcome 1: Create draft of publishable manuscript, with ultimate intent to place the manuscript with a reputable academic press. (It is unlikely that an actual contract will be signed during the duration of the FEO, but I aim to have a contract by mid-2010.) This is the most specific outcome.

Outcome 2: As a faculty member in a very pragmatically oriented, production-driven program, I find it essential to maintain connection with and make significant contributions to a culture of research and scholarship, as a way of balancing my professional identity as a teacher and director. Ideally, research will feed back into other professional activities, and here I envision the possibility of offering an undergraduate seminar on theatre and film, or devising a stage work based on silent cinema.

Outcome 3: The eventual publication of "Muse of Fire/Muse of Light" will enable me to apply for a Full Professorship in 2010.

B. List specific benefits of this FEO to your department, college and/or the university overall.

Benefit 1 (School and College): In the context of the School of Theatre and Dance, I am the only faculty member to consistently engage in scholarly presentations and publications both nationally and internationally. Since my colleagues are mostly artist-practitioners, the School's academic reputation in the outside world rests primarily with me. My previous book "Staging the Savage God," put UF's School of Theatre and Dance on the academic map. Completion of this current project will raise our status as a fine training institute with a serious commitment to the highest quality of scholarship and research. As for the College, any such increase in academic visibility, especially with a project that has interdisciplinary and international/intercultural aspects, makes it easier to justify our work towards a sometimes skeptical institution and public.

Benefit 2 (University):

Successful scholarship and publication by its faculty are still the measure of a university's standing. As UF's hard-won ranking among public universities is potentially eroded by the current fiscal crisis, supporting faculty productivity (and maintaining faculty morale) is the best investment the institution can make in its future.

CHECK ONE: I agree (✓) or I do not agree () that my proposal (WITHOUT budget information), if successful, can be shared with others applying for FEOs.