

Internship Proposal for the Creation of:

"THE UNITED STAGE OF AMERICA"

submitted by David Boles

10/17/89

THE UNITED STAGE

"Success is not a harbour,
but a voyage, with its own
perils to the spirit. The
game of life is to come up
a winner, to be a success,
or to achieve what we set
out to do. Yet, there is
always the danger of failing
as a human being. The lesson
that most of us on this voyage
never learn, but can never
quite forget...is that sometimes
to win...is to lose."

INTRODUCTION: For years I have wanted to start my own theatre company. During my brief and exciting tenure here at the Hammerstein Center, I know I am now properly prepared to attack that dream. Today, I respectfully submit my dream: I wish to use my internship to start my own theatre company. I understand that the money for my internship would probably need to be paid entirely by the Hammerstein Center, but that short-term investment will pay off in the future. Credit for making *The United Stage of America* possible will be given to the Hammerstein Center in theatre history books yet to be written. The only reason I feel I have the ability to achieve this dream, is because of my training at the Hammerstein Center.

I ask that my paid six month internship be used to help me establish *The United Stage*. If you agree to allow the creation of *The United Stage* as my internship, I will then be free to spend twenty-four hours every day making the theatre work. You will save me years of part-time work to try and get *The United Stage* put together. I would like to be Artistic Director and Executive Director of *The United Stage*.

My vision for this theatre is strong, undying, and simple. I know that with the support of an internship I can make this theatre company a reality. All I need to do is make twelve phone calls, and I will already have established a dedicated core of collaborators. I know many new theatre companies take root each day. I ask that a leap of faith be made once again on my behalf. I will not be able to form this dream without your support.

THE IDEA OF THE THEATRE: The United Stage will be dedicated to the collaborative process in the creation of "experimental tragedy." Experimental tragedies will be redacted versions of classic tragedies, made new to enlighten our future through the past. Also, original experimental tragedies will be created, dedicated to dissecting the myth in our lives. We will race ahead of our unenlightened time by understanding today through flashes of truth that make up the future.

RATIONALIZATION: The United Stage is invaluable, because it will become a magnet for all Columbia students past, present and future. This theatre will be built upon the teachings of The Hammerstein Center and the experiences here will be the common touchstone for all work performed.

The United Stage will be the physical realization of intellectual thought. We will be a bridge between the Hammerstein Center and the professional theatre. We will be a theatre that flaunts failures and brags about success. We will are not a theatre to be liked, our purpose is to teach a method of thinking that will brighten the mind. We will be a shining beacon of thought in a dark world.

THE COMPANY: *There will be a permanent company of actors, technicians, playwrights, managers, directors and critics, but the company will be dedicated to the survival of the playwright. We will not read plays, we will perform them. Plays will be reviewed after the initial performance and then given a supplemental performance a week later, with changes and additions made by the playwright. No plays will be accepted for production that have less than seven characters. Our interest is to force playwrights to write about community, magnitude, pity, fear, fury and love. We are not interested in restrictions of characters due to budgetary concern. We will be a non-union theatre company.*

PREPARATION: In order for the *United Stage* to become a reality, I must have enough time to plan the details properly. I ask that this internship be approved soon, so that I may start building the web of support and commitment from current classmates, and others who have expressed a desire to become a part of history.

This semester I would like to contact other persons willing to join me in this mission. Next semester (Spring, 1990) I would like to write the philosophical manifesto for *The United Stage of America* so that the goals and obligations of the theatre are clear and precise from the start. During the summer of 1990, I would like to start my internship and begin the painstaking process of creating a new theatre company. Financial support from the Hammerstein Center in the form of my internship, would cease in January, 1991. During my internship, the following objectives will have been realized...

THE PLAN:

1. A dedicated ensemble will have been forged.
2. Three full productions of experimental tragedies will have been produced.
3. Three new plays by Hammerstein students will have been given a production.
4. Financial support from private and institutional sources will have been obtained.
5. Our productions will have been covered and reviewed in the mass media.
6. The theatre will have found a permanent home.
7. Free theatre classes will have been given to anyone who asked.
8. We will have fused with the community by serving as a relay between public schools and the intellectual promise of the stage.
9. We will have become the new home and the support network for all graduated Hammerstein students interested in failure as well as success.
10. We will have thoroughly revitalized the rapture of theatre through intellect and make a healthy profit in the process.

CONCLUSION: I am desperate to begin *The United Stage*. I plead for this type of internship. I have no interest to work at an established theatre company. I do not want to follow the desire of others. I don't want to make coffee, fetch ice cream and make xerox copies. I certainly will do those things if this proposal is rejected; please understand my desire is not to be brash, but I must be true to myself and to my training at the Hammerstein Center and ask to be indulged. Will you let me create my own internship? I can learn best by establishing *The United Stage*. I may fail, but what a magnificent failure it will be!

Give me the opportunity to prove my worth: approve this proposal and let me begin the salvation of the theatre today! Set *The United Stage* free to create dreams.