

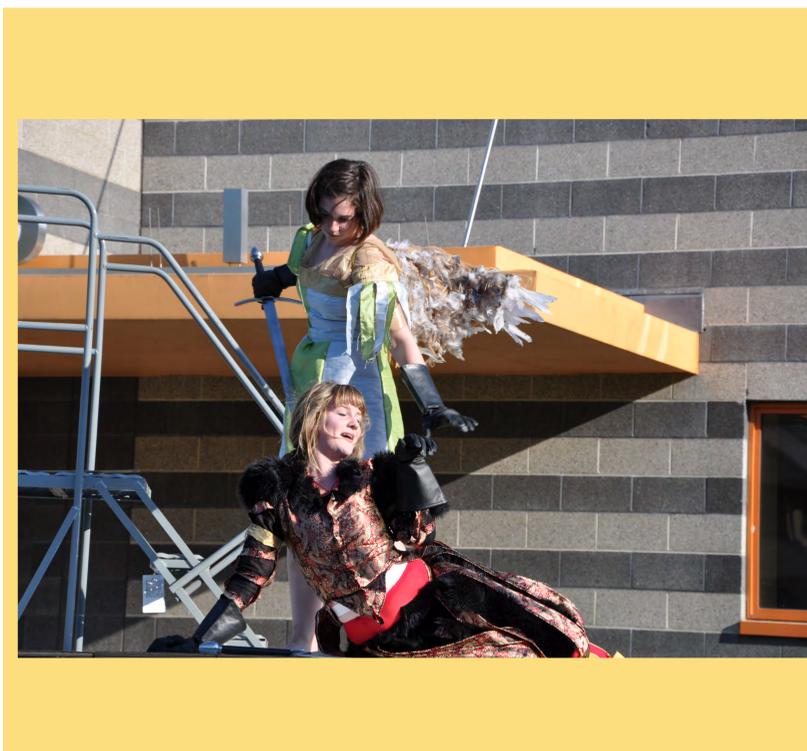
Blogging the Chester Cycle in WordPress

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Course(s): ENGL 215 Performing the Chester Cycle
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Chester Cycle Production:

In May of 2010, the Poculi Ludique Societas at the University of Toronto mounted a production of the entire Chester Cycle. This was a unique dramatic opportunity because the entire Chester Cycle is rarely produced and performed in one day. Many groups participated by performing one segment. Our class helped produce the Dyers Play.

The Chester Cycle was witnessed in 1572 by Christopher Goodman, a protestant who strongly objected to the Catholic content of the cycle. The Chester Cycle 2010 was performed with this religious and political tension in mind. Our class examined the documentary artifacts of the Chester Cycle (its manuscripts, accounts of viewings, production notes, etc.) to think about what it would require for an entire civic community to produce and perform this play yearly.



Use of WordPress:

This blog documented the process and production of a Chester Cycle play, as performed by Dorothy Kim and her students. They performed the Anti-Christ play, which features both the Anti-Christ's attempt to gain followers and his subsequent defeat by the St. Michael. After weeks of rehearsals and costuming, the cast travelled to Toronto in order to perform their play at the Chester Cycle 2010 Symposium.



Benefits

It is one thing to read about a play and to think about what it must have been like in its historical context. Rehearsing and performing a play takes that learning to a whole other level.

Students performed repeated close readings of the text in order to master their parts and to accurately stage the production, from the costuming to the wagon staging. Taking the entire show on the road was an unforgettable learning experience for our students.

The WordPress site served as an excellent way to document the process. It was also a fantastic vehicle for pushing out content (photos & videos) to our fellow thespians, parents and the greater Vassar Community. It was of great utility when we were being reviewed