Darrell Rushton, Associate Professor of Theatre
Frostburg State University

Application for Regent's Faculty Award for Creative Activity

Fall, 2018

Since joining the faculty at Frostburg State University, I have always maintained my professional connections and worked to maintain all aspects of my creative activity. From being on stage at the Cumberland Theatre from 1998 - 2010, as an Equity Actor to working in film and commercial in the DC/Baltimore area to regional and national stage combat workshops, I have never stopped pursuing my career. Thanks to my position in the Society of American Fight Directors, of which I am one of 165 certified teachers and one of only 25 Theatrical Firearms Instructors, I have had a professional artistic resurgence in the last few years, which I feel should qualify me for the **Regent's Faculty Award for Creative Activity.**

In the Spring 2018 semester alone, I was a guest artist at West Virginia University and the Fight Director for **The Three Musketeers**, co-sponsor of the fourth Allegany Alley Fight (regional stage combat workshop) at CCAC in Pennsylvania, the Fight Director for **Twelfth Night** at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and directed **Fool for Love** at the Cumberland Theatre, to highly acclaimed reviews. Cumberland Theatre has approached me to direct again, **Clue** in the fall of 2019. I was also invited to teach February 2018, as a guest artist at Rider University, in New jersey.

Fall 2017 saw me as a guest artist at Oklahoma University's prestigious Weitzenhoffer Musical Theatre program, as fight director for **City of Angels**, as well as teaching several classes in the School of Drama.

In the 2015-2016 academic year, I was asked to come on board to Fight Direct **Romeo and Juliet** at the West Virginia Public Theatre, which was well received. I was an instructor at the Philadelphia and Virginia Beach regional workshops, as well as the Allegany Alley Fight, in addition to acting as fight director (service to the university) for two productions, **Around the World in 80 Days** and **To Kill a Mockingbird**.

In the spring of 2015, I also taught at the Allegany Alley Fight, both Philadelphia and Virginia Beach Regional stage combat workshops, taught Theatrical Firearms Safety to Indiana University of Pennsylvania, who send their premier production of **A Soldier's Heart** to the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival with my choreography, and sang with Frostburg State University's Jazz Orchestra. I did this on top of teaching pro bono at numerous high school theatre festivals, and being named **Blackbelt of the Year** at Kickmaster's Karate in LaVale, Maryland.

I do all of this while serving the university as the advisor for the **Savage Mountain Stage Combat Club**, a student organization dedicated to learning the art of stage combat, raising money to send students to workshops, pay for guest artists and adjudicate their Skills Proficiency Test, all outside the normal curriculum (and therefore my normal teaching load) I continue to teach Tae Kwan Doh at a local karate dojang, maintain professional relations with colleagues around the country, am regularly invited to teach all across the country, bring students with me to professional productions and workshops, mentor students and colleagues in the art, and maintain professional Union status in AEA, SAG-AFTRA, and the SCD, Society of Directors and Choreographers. I ask to be considered for the USM Regent's Faculty Award in Creative Activity.

I believe I am qualified if not just for the professional work outside the university Spring 2018 alone, but for my body of work. I ask the committee's consideration in accepting and forwarding my self-nomination for the Regent's Faculty Award in Creative Activity.