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Quartet Revisited

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Poster Presentation P77

QUARTET REVISITED

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Two years ago, as I rode along on the U-bahn in Berlin, Germany, reading a collection of plays by the German playwright Heiner Mueller, I would have never imagined that today, my mind would still be taken with the complexity of his text, *Quartet*. Since I am still so enchanted and inspired by *Quartet*, I propose a research honors project that will delve into this multifaceted text and transform it into a multifaceted performance piece.

While the complexity of *Quartet* is somewhat intimidating I choose to recognize it as an opportunity to explore the various artistic media that might be used in order to effectively convey both the plot and the philosophies behind the plot to an audience. Through dance, drama, and a collage-like installation I will be able to explore different ways of interpreting and relaying the text and, eventually, determine which media are best suited for the various segments of the play. Transferring this incredibly intellectual text into a performance piece that utilizes different artistic forms and effectively tells the story will require me to systematically analyze and decipher the play in order to determine when the text best lends itself to a particular medium. Moreover, because Mueller's work is rich with literary, historical, and philosophical references I will be conducting research and preparing written analyses on their function in the text.

Two large themes in my academic career both here at Illinois Wesleyan and in my studies abroad have been performance art and Germanic studies. This project will be an opportunity to synthesize and exercise the various disciplines that I have been working in. It is my hope that this venture will culminate not only in written work, but of greater importance to me, in an artistic presentation that I will share with the Illinois Wesleyan community.