

## **Experiencing the London Stage: A Survey of British Theatre While Studying Abroad:**

### **Project Summary**

This Spring, I will be studying abroad at a conservatory program in London with the help of a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Miller Arts Award. I was recently accepted to both the London Academy of Dramatic Arts' Classical Semester Program and NYU's Shakespeare in Performance Program through the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Currently, I am planning on attending NYU's program, but I am keeping my options open because NYU had to cancel their Fall 2020 program and LAMDA stayed open this semester despite Covid-19. I am beyond ecstatic to be studying acting in a new country and I want to make the most of my time across the pond. I hope to broaden both my artistic and cultural horizons and would love the opportunity to experience great performance while studying in one of the world's most theatrical cities. Getting to see productions on the West End and beyond would be both academically and personally rewarding. I will be at NYU's program from January to May or LAMDA's program from January to April, so there are many opportunities for a trip to a stage. There are two ways that I can use the \$500 to see theatre while studying abroad; taking a NYU course or creating my own personal season.

### **Proposal**

#### 1. NYU "Theatre in London" Course

The NYU program consists of one 8 credit course at RADA that encompasses all of the theatrical training. I will pick two additional elective courses from a list of four. One of those courses is "ITHEA-UT 662: Theatre in London" which takes students to a wide variety of productions. The course costs \$510, and enrollment is on a first come, first serve basis. The course description is provided by NYU's website:

"A selection of theatrical productions is chosen to give students a feel for the breadth and depth of London theatre during weekly theatre visits to the West End and fringe theatres. Each production is viewed and analyzed as a whole, but the many and varied elements that go into making London theatre supply a different focus each week. In addition, there are occasional field trips to sites of theatrical interest with a guest speaker or two thrown into the mix each semester to discuss his/her work (from writing to directing to acting to designing), to share knowledge and expertise and to help demonstrate how high-quality parts are needed to make a high-quality whole."

#### 2. Crafting my own experience

If I am unable to get into ITHEA-UT 662 or I attend LAMDA instead (which does not offer a similar class) I have created my own season of theatre that would be intellectually and personally enriching. I want to sample many different genres and forms and focus on British culture and theatre. I will be seeing a Shakespeare comedy (*Measure for Measure*), a Shakespeare Tragedy (*Hamlet*), a dramatic contemporary play (*The Ocean at the End of the Lane*), a comedic contemporary play (*Magic Goes Wrong*), and an iconic mystery play that has

the longest run of any play in West End history (*Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap"*). It is important to my performance education to see at least two Shakespeare productions and to mostly see plays, not musicals. Although I love to perform and watch musical theatre, my area of artistic study is on straight plays and Shakespeare performance. In addition, the majority of the musicals shown in London are Broadway transfers, which would not give me an authentic British experience, hence why I chose *Back to the Future* as it originated on the West End. *Moulin Rouge!* is my one indulgence of American origin.

This list may change as more plays with shorter runs are announced for the Spring season, and depending on my class schedule and what tickets are available, I may be able to add more productions and buy cheaper tickets. Based on current estimations, it would cost \$505.17 to see seven productions at various venues.

### Proposed Budget

1. NYU "Theatre in London" Course:

The NYU Course costs **\$510** for approximately 14 events (shows and talk-back discussions).

2. Crafting my own experience:

This list may change as more plays with shorter runs are announced for the Spring season, and depending on my class schedule and what tickets are available, I may be able to add more productions and buy cheaper tickets. Based on current estimations, it would cost **\$505.17** to see seven productions at various venues.

Production	Cost (converted to USD)	Why I want to see it
<i>The Ocean at the End of the Lane</i>	\$100.76	This play is based on a book by Neil Gaiman, arguably one of the best story tellers of our time. It is a dramatic play and the West End is its world premiere. I had actually just checked the book out when I found out about the production, and I figured I would wait to see it on stage first!
<i>Hamlet</i>	\$46.30	It is very important to me to see two Shakespeare plays in the Globe theatre while I am in London. I chose this play as the tragedy I would see simply because it is my favorite.
<i>Measure for Measure</i>	\$46.30	I will have just read this play in my ENGL 3271 class when I go to London, it would be very exciting to see a production. If I am able to get cheaper tickets for the other shows, I will be adding as many Globe productions as I can to this list.

<i>Back to the Future: The Musical</i>	\$100.76	This musical is original to the West End, unlike most of the other Musicals in London. Like <i>Moulin Rouge!</i> , it is an adaptation of one of my favorite movies.
<i>Magic Goes Wrong</i>	\$59.91	I love everything that has come out of the Mischief Theatre Company. I have watched <i>Peter Pan Goes Wrong</i> at least three times and I had the chance to see a touring production of <i>The Play that Goes Wrong</i> in high school. British comedy in general is one of my favorite things, and this production is supposed to be like a magic show, which is an outlier on this list.
<i>Agatha Christie's "The Mouse Trap"</i>	\$50.38	This play has been running on the West End since 1974, making it one of the longest running shows off all time.
<i>Moulin Rouge!</i>	\$100.76	My one non-British indulgence.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$505.17</b>	