

Susana Kuhn
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Art Scholar Mini Grant Application (Spring 2022)

Fall Mini Grant Outcome Report/ Updated Proposal

In the fall, I proposed a mini grant to purchase a variety of dramaturgy texts as well as see several different Broadway shows throughout winter break, as well as register for dramaturgy workshops for this upcoming summer. This was a part of my plan to reconnect with the arts and start putting dramaturgical work to practice through self-reflections to accompany these performances.

In the weeks before I arrived home for winter break there was a resurgence of COVID-19 with the introduction of the Omicron variant and many of the shows that I had originally listed that I would purchase tickets for, closed. On top of that, I had originally included a timeline listing that 2 of the shows I planned to see would be before/ near Christmas time and I didn't feel safe taking the risk of entering a crowded theater that close to the holidays. Thus, even though a select few shows were still running, I decided to push back my timeline for this proposal so that I could fully engage in the experience in a safe and productive way. My updated timeline included seeing one show (*Hades Town*) during my last week at home when I was no longer engaging with risk family members, as well as push back the others to be seen during the week spring break as well as the beginning of the summer.

I was fortunate enough to be able to see one show during my final week of break when I was no longer encountering high risk family members. The money that I have been able to spend from my mini grant so far has gone towards seeing *Hades Town* on Broadway. I attended this performance with my younger sister during the end of my winter break in mid-January. This ticket cost \$129 to sit in the front mezzanine and we had a great view of the entire stage. The story of *Hades Town* walks the audience through the Greek myth of two separate couples: Hades and Persephone + Euridice and Orpheus. There is a scene towards the end of the first act where Hades sings about his need to keep growing his kingdom and you see him grow cold and heartless in the process. Although this show wasn't as explicitly political as I those I had hoped and planned for, I was able to reflect upon my interpretation of this show as containing subtle commentary on capitalistic culture. This musical thus provided interesting insight into the ways in which political commentary can be subtly and tastefully incorporated into musicals that you may not expect.

With the remaining \$325.10, I still plan to apply to/ pay the registration fee for the one-week online [Drama Turgy Intensive at the Kennedy Center](#) (application has not yet opened). However, this may be altered depending on acceptance to Summer Programs. Should I either not be granted admission to this program or am unable to attend, the \$100 will go towards seeing an additional play from my selected list between May-July. Additionally, I will see at least one additional play over the course of spring break through the start of August. To make the most of the remaining funds, I will opt to purchase the tickets the day of so that I can get discounted prices and hopefully afford to see more than two. The shows that I will include 2-3 from the following list: *Moulin Rouge*, *Funny Girl*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Company*. Since most of

the plays from my original list had closed, I chose this updated list of them highlight specific time periods in history that I plan to research and analyze throughout the process. As I am currently taking a script analysis class, this has also helped me to build my skill set in interpreting texts and has given me tools that I will be able to take with me as I see these shows. Additionally, this semester I have taken Directing I and am excited about the ways in which directing can be used as a form of critique on Golden Age Musicals.

Although it is unfortunate that many of my original plans had to be altered due to the pandemic, these new educational experiences through my spring semester classes will prove worthwhile in helping me to interact with the texts.



Photo of me and my younger sister in the Walter Kerr Theater before seeing Hades Town:

Current Expenditures:

Expense	Description	Amount
New Drama Turgies: Strategies and exercises for 21st Century Playwrights By Mark Bly	Paperback version to reduce costs	\$22.95
Principles of Drama Turgy By Robert Scanlon	Paperback version to reduce costs	\$22.95
Hades Town Ticket	Front Mezzanine Ticket	\$129

Total: \$174.90

Remaining Expenditures (\$325.10 remaining):

Expense	Description	Amount
Dramaturgy Intensive at the Kennedy Center	Will apply during my spring semester to attend virtually between June 1- June 28 2022	\$100.00
Moulin Rouge	Plan to attend on March 11, during Spring Break	\$87.75
Company	Left Mezzanine ticket for March 10	\$59.00
Funny Girl	Left Mezzanine ticket for May 25	\$50.00
To Kill a Mocking Bird	Rush Tickets to be purchased day of depending on availability but most likely in May	\$29.00

Total: \$325.75

I am beyond grateful to Miller Arts Scholars as well as UVA Drama both for their flexibility during this time as well as for providing me with the opportunity to see these shows and help me on my journey to become a theater practitioner/ dramaturg.

Thank you!