

Susana Kuhn

1 October, 2021

Art Scholar Mini Grant Application (Fall 2021)

### **Dramaturgy Immersion and Application through Reading, Intensives, and Live Performances**

Throughout my life I have been involved in theater as a performer, an analyst, a director, and an audience member. In recent years, I have become fascinated with the idea of political theater, and the importance of using performance as a tool to prompt discussion surrounding social issues. As a native New Yorker, I have had the privilege of easy access to theater for a majority of my life and have found it extremely grounding. After a year of inaccessibility to live performance due to the pandemic, I would like to use this mini grant as an opportunity to re-engage with the arts in this way and deepen my understanding of theater as both an educational and political tool and to explore the relationship of dramaturgy to this purpose

I would like to propose an immersive arts experience during winter and summer break to learn more about the role of a dramaturg and apply these findings to real performances. I would use this time to attend several Broadway (and potentially off-Broadway) productions, and to read several books and plays as a way of framing my thinking. I will also use these experiences to help prepare an application for a summer workshop in dramaturgy. Finally, I plan to schedule several one on one check-in sessions with my advisor, Katelyn Hale Wood, during this time. As a professor who taught me performance theory and history in an intimate class setting throughout my second year, she is someone whose opinions I value in having discussions around these shows.

With these grant funds, , I estimate I can purchase tickets for 2 Broadway shows if buying full price, or 4-6 if I'm able to secure discounted tickets. I plan to see *Caroline for Change* at the beginning of winter break (on or around December 20, 2021). Next I plan to see *Jagged Little Pill* on or about January 4, 2022. The plays that I have chosen feature highly political issues/ time periods such as the role of black women during the civil rights movement and issues of substance abuse relating to queer relationships. I believe that prefacing these viewings by reading texts addressing representation and inclusion in dramaturgy will prepare me to have more meaningful conversations and engagements with the shows. Finally, I will use this experience to help prepare an application for a virtual dramaturgy intensive workshop in June. I will apply for this during the spring semester and, if admitted, will use this workshop to build connections and deepen my understanding on the role of a dramaturg in theater and performance.

**Budget:**

Expense	Description	Amount
<a href="#">Caroline or Change Mezzanine Ticket</a>	Monday, December 20	\$149
<a href="#">Jagged Little Pill Tickets</a>	Row N seat 108 on Jan 4, 2021	\$199
Transportation	\$2.75 x 4, subway fair back and forth	\$11
<a href="#">New DramaTurgies: Strategies and exercises for 21st Century Playwrights</a> By Mark Bly	Paperback version to reduce costs	\$22.95
<a href="#">Principles of DramaTurgy</a> By Robert Scanlon	Paperback version to reduce costs	\$22.95
<a href="#">Diversity, Inclusion, and Representation in Contemporary Dramaturgy: Case Studies from the Field</a>  By Phillipa Kelly	n/a	\$59.65
<a href="#">Dramaturgy Intensive at the Kennedy Center</a>	Will apply during my spring semester to attend virtually between June 1-June 28 2022	\$100

Total: \$564.55

I acknowledge that this is over the allotted \$500 and intend to cover the additional \$64.55 myself

**Estimated Timeline:**

November

- Purchase tickets for Caroline or Change and Jagged Little Pill once my schedule for winter break has solidified
- Purchase Essential DramaTurgy

- Begin reading Principles of DramaTurgy

#### December

- Attend Caroline or Change

#### January

- Attend Jagged Little Pill
- Finish reading *Essential DramaTurgy*

#### April/May

- Prepare and Submit Application for Kennedy Center Intensive

#### June

- Attend Intensive

If I am not granted admission to the program I will use the extra \$100 to purchase a series of scripts for a summer reading list. Having the opportunity to purchase these materials and see these shows would be instrumental in my development as a theater practitioner and a huge first step on my journey in pursuing a future as a dramaturg.

Thank you for your consideration!