

Micah Watson Rising-Third Year Award Outcome Report

As my proposal stated, I originally planned to intern with BET in New York. However, I decided that working at TV One in Washington, DC would be a better fit. I had more opportunities to foster mentoring relationships and to get in on the ground level of their then new film pursuits. Upon beginning this project, my goal was to learn more about the process of sharing art with a larger audience. After spending eight weeks with TV One, I believe that this internship was most definitely a successful endeavor.

Specifically, I was an intern in the Original Programming and Production department. In a corporate world, I expected the work style to be very individualistic, however I found that the Original Programming to be an extremely collaborative team. In weekly meetings, producers were constantly bouncing ideas off of one and other, sharing thoughts, and problem solving. I learned most from the business side of their minds, but resonated most with their artistic sides. They sought to speak out about injustices and tell stories that people really care about. This was comforting and gave me a better sense of direction for my post-graduation pursuits.



An afternoon at my desk, complete with a stack of scripts.

One of my duties during this internship was to read film scripts and write coverage. A coverage report includes a synopsis of the script, critiques and

suggestions, as well as a recommendation for producers and network executives as to whether or not the network should pursue a project. Being on the receiving end of scripts, sizzles, and pitches has made me a much more aware writer and filmmaker. A story must be captivating from the very beginning. A writer only has a few pages to capture the attention of a network or production company. Considerations beyond the words on the page must also be made. This includes things like marketability, casting needs, and budgets. As a result, I have seen this idea manifest itself in my plays and short films.

TV One provided a unique work experience because the network is on par with other cable channels, but is smaller and therefore gave me the opportunity to be a participant instead of simply being an observer. My arts courses were especially helpful in this regard. I was able to offer ideas and give informed feedback, as a result of my cinematography and playwriting courses. Some of the scripts that I chose have been produced and aired or are in development.



An on set visit at News One Now, TV One's morning news show.

I think that I gained the most knowledge from learning about the process of developing a show and seeing it through to production. I was able to see where the different components of the network work together in order to get a show or movie on air. The producers must work with the casting directors who must work with the legal team. While I had experience functioning on a team, before this internship I had not seen teamwork in action on such a large scale.

This internship was one of my most meaningful artistic experiences to date. I had the opportunity to learn about creativity in a way that I might not have been able to on grounds. I gained work experience, new artistic perspective, and really strong mentors. I hope to be able to return to TV One to continue to make

my mark on the network.

I used the Rising-Third Year award to support my living expenses, including housing, travel and food. This grant made it possible for me not only to participate in this internship experience, but also use my free time to write plays and prepare for the second iteration of The Black Monologues. Thank you to the all of the supporters of the Miller Arts Scholars program, with a special thanks to Sandy and Vinie Miller and Evie and Stephen Colbert. I am grateful for the opportunity to explore my art form in a new and exciting way.



A shot following my closing presentation.