

John Barnes  
Miller Arts Scholar Minigrant Proposal  
Spring 2023

## **Headshots and a Hard Drive**

### **Project Summary:**

Throughout the course of my life, I have participated in 12+ theatrical productions and various student films as an actor. More recently, I have been fortunate enough to work as a background actor on big projects such as *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, *The Sex Lives of College Girls*, *Rustin*, and *Lady in the Lake*. I have also worked as a background actor on a few government industrials, including a promo for the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign. I constantly submit to online casting calls for both student and professional films in the Charlottesville, DC, and Richmond metropolitan areas.

However, the headshot on my actor resume is a cropped photo from my Mom's wedding in 2021. I have never taken any professional headshots despite my passion for pursuing acting. Professional headshots are essential for any actor to have when submitting to casting calls and booking potential jobs. For these reasons, I would like to take industry-standard headshots to increase the professionalism of my acting resume and career. Professional headshots would also provide me confidence in securing future acting opportunities this summer when I will be located in LA for a few weeks. Furthermore, I will be able to use these headshots on my LinkedIn and filmmaking endeavors in addition to acting opportunities.

I have researched a plethora of photographers in the Charlottesville, DC, and Richmond areas. After much consideration, I believe that Colin Key Photography in Richmond offers the best quality deal: two headshots with retouching for \$440. I have also reached out to him regarding a potential student discount and I am currently waiting to hear back from him. I am fortunate enough to have a car on grounds so I can easily travel to Richmond in late March or early April after Spring Break.

I am also applying for a minigrant that would fund a new external hard drive for my filmmaking endeavors. In 2019, I bought a 2 TB external drive to back up raw footage and completed film projects. As a filmmaker, I have archived my footage from various realized and unrealized projects over the course of my life, including hour-long interviews with my late relatives, documentary footage from the 2018 March for Our Lives and 2017 Women's March, and footage from every short narrative film I have ever made. Unfortunately, my current hard drive is now out of storage. Due to my two film production-based classes this year at UVA, OverCranked and Introduction to Cinematography, I have been increasingly running out of space. In these classes alone, I have produced around 100 GB of footage this school year. With minigrant funds, I would buy a new 4 TB hard drive from Seagate to back up this new footage without having to delete any old footage from my old 2 TB hard drive. Additionally, the new 4 TB hard drive would last me twice as long as my old 2 TB hard drive and I would not need to replace or upgrade this hard drive for many years to come.

With Miller Arts Scholars minigrant funding, I would be able to gain more opportunities in my acting career with professional headshots while also safely archiving my past work as a filmmaker. I am confident this funding will benefit my future career endeavors as an actor and filmmaker.

**Timeline:**

Late March/Early April 2023

- Headshot session in Richmond with Jeremy
- Buy Hard Drive from BestBuy Charlottesville

Late April 2023

- Upload headshots to my personal website and acting resume
- Use updated headshots for casting calls
- Backup films and organize footage on new hard drive

**Budget:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Cost</b>
2 Looks, 2 Retouched Images Package, Colin Key Photography	1	\$440
Seagate - Expansion 4TB External USB 3.0 Portable Hard Drive with Rescue Data Recovery Services - Black	1	\$91.99
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		<b>\$531.99</b> (\$31.99 paid out of pocket)