

The Globe Theatre
by Kristen Barrett

INTRO

Ever since I read *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in middle school, I have loved Shakespearean plays and sonnets. At my high school, we read at least one Shakespearean play a year, and while my classmates begrudgingly suffered through the tradition, I never complained, relishing Shakespeare's exquisite language and dynamic characters. My love for Shakespeare led to me joining the Shakespeare Society, portraying Rosalind in our production of *As You Like It*, and winning my school's annual Shakespeare monologue competition.

While at the University, I have missed this consistent involvement with Shakespeare, and I decided to remedy that by directing a show through Shakespeare on the Lawn, the only Shakespeare-centric theatrical CIO on Grounds. In Fall 2018, I will be directing *Romeo and Juliet*, reimagining it as an interracial love story set in the summer after the Rodney King riots. The Capulet family will be African-American; the Montague family will be Caucasian; and other characters associated with neither or both families (i.e. The Prince, Friar Laurence) will be portrayed by primarily non-black minorities. Auditions for the production will not occur until next semester, but already students — regardless of their love or hatred of Shakespeare — are excited for a show that promises to cross racial boundaries and to celebrate interracial relationships.

As I plan for this production, I want to immerse myself in critical analyses of *Romeo and Juliet* and study/view performances of Shakespeare plays. To this end, I want to use this funding to visit the Globe Theatre while I am studying abroad in Oxford. During the UVA in Oxford program, all students have weeknights and weekends free. My plan would be to spend one weekend (Thursday night - Sunday afternoon) visiting the Globe Theatre and viewing a few of their performances. In addition to seeing the Globe's guided tour, I would also view their productions that are running in July: *Hamlet*, *As You Like It*, *The Winter's Tale*. This experience would give me a better perspective of the history of Shakespeare productions, and it would allow me to see how a director may choose to present a Shakespearean play in the twenty-first century.

TIMELINE

- April
 - Buy show and train tickets
 - Buy *The Norton Shakespeare*
- Late June - July
 - Read the *Hamlet*, *As You Like It*, and *The Winter's Tale* in *The Norton Shakespeare*
 - Attend the Globe's guided tour and the productions
 - Write up summary of experiences and connect it to my vision of *Romeo and Juliet*

BUDGET

Item	Cost	More Info
Tickets for Three Globe Theatre Shows	\$195	All tickets have the same price no matter the production (\$30 - 65 per show)
<i>The Norton Shakespeare</i>	\$88	
Transportation	\$74	Train from Oxford to London and back
Globe Theatre Guided Tour	\$23	
Lodging (for 3 nights)	\$450	
Total	\$830	

Since this budget exceeds the minigrant, I am requesting the full amount of \$500 to cover all expenses except for lodging. I intend to use my personal savings for this trip to cover the rest.

CONCLUSION

All in all, I think visiting the Globe would prime me for directing *Romeo and Juliet*. My vision for this show coupled with overwhelming support from my peers has motivated me to delve deeply into this production, and I truly believe that immersing myself in Shakespearean theatre would put me on the path toward success. I would greatly appreciate the financial support of the Miller Arts Scholars Minigrant as I strive toward this goal. Thank you for your time and consideration.