

Classical and Shakespearean Performance in London: Third Year Arts Award Application

When I first starting applying to colleges, all I would talk about was getting a BFA. I thought I wanted that intensive conservatory style experience and I could not imagine having to take another history or science class in my life. At some point, I began to have some doubts. I was told by many administrators and advisors for those programs that I would only be at that school to study acting, I couldn't write and I certainly would not have time to direct or explore film. I was very nervous about where I could go, until I went to Days On the Lawn. Speaking to UVa students, I came to realize that a small drama program in an academically rigorous and opportunity rich community might be the answer to most of my problems. I still wanted an intensive training experience, but I also wanted the academic studies and other non-acting artistic opportunities that might not be available to me in a BFA program.

Despite not having a conservatory style acting program, UVA allows students to take their education into their own hands instead of following a formulaic set of requirements that churn out the same type of creatives. The ability to take not only fantastic classes in the Drama department but also classes surrounding the academic aspects of theatrical arts (specifically in the English and Media Studies department) has been incredibly beneficial to my craft. However, I do firmly believe that intensive training is necessary to becoming a well-rounded actor which is why I would like to apply to study abroad at two different conservatory style semester long programs. I am requesting \$3,000 to attend one of the following opportunities, both in London, England.

The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts Semester Program for Classical Acting is my first choice. At LAMDA I will be required to put in at least 30 hours of practical work per week. This includes classes, in which I will be able to earn up to 60 credits, as well as rehearsals. This rigorous course of study is perfect for the way that I work and learn. I thrive in intensive environments and immersive study. The courses at LAMDA are broken down into four categories aimed at improving every aspect of an actors work; Music, Movement, Acting, and Voice.

The Music courses include a focus on technique, repertoire and general musicianship. Although I have had extensive vocal training and I am classically trained, UVA does not offer many musician classes geared towards actors; I have already taken Musical Theatre Performance and Voice for the Stage through the music department. This program would allow me to get back into the fundamentals as well as the practicals of theatrical singing. UVA also does not currently offer a clowning course, which is a large part of LAMDA's movement curriculum. I believe clown training to be a necessity for an actor's toolkit because it opens up the engages an actor's imaginative and creative movement.

The acting training offered focuses on classical style using Shakespeare's histories and tragedies and English comedies of manners. At UVA, the texts used in acting classes are almost exclusively from contemporary dramatic theatre, and mainly teach modern technique. While I have found this training incredibly useful, I would also love to explore my passion for these older plays in a more traditional English style. LAMDA also teaches special voice classes alongside acting with a focus on speech, phonation, breathing, and physical alignment. The language of Shakespeare and older plays is a challenge for many actors, including myself, and I think this area of study will be the most beneficial to me. It is about the poetry within the drama and how the two connect to the physical and emotional life of the character. Not only will these

courses assist me with performing Shakespeare, but it will also help me tackle other forms of classical theatre in the future.

My second choice to study abroad is the **Shakespeare and Performance Program at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art**, available through NYU Tisch's special study abroad programs to both NYU and non-NYU students. During the course I would get to spend three days a week taking classes at RADA exclusively on Shakespeare and how to perform his work. These courses would include work on sonnets, verse scenes, monologues, play projects, and a studio production; as well as classes in Voice, Physical Performance, Speech, Song, Dance, Clown and Armed Combat. The armed combat is what initially drew me to this program, as I had the opportunity to do a lot of stage combat with the Drama Department's production of *She Kills Monsters* and I absolutely loved it. If I were to attend RADA, I would earn a three-year certification from the British Academy of Stage and Screen Combat. That would be a great start to earning a U.S. certification (SAFD or other), which has been one of my personal goals since I first had to do stage combat for a role in high school.

In addition to the classes at RADA, NYU's program also requires students to spend two days a week taking classes at NYU's London Campus. I would be taking courses from incredible professors on the history of London's art culture, British film, Shakespearian studies and Theatre in London- which includes a weekly trip to London's West End to see productions. The academic courses offered by NYU in conjunction with Shakespearian training at RADA provides an important balance between traditional classes and theatrical studies.

However, LAMDA is my first choice between these two programs because of the level of immersion into London culture it provides. If I attended the NYU program, I would be going mostly with NYU undergrads whereas LAMDA hosts students from all over the globe. Also, as much as I love Shakespeare and want to learn as much about Shakespearian performance as possible, the courses offered by LAMDA include other classical English/European texts that would provide some fresh stories to learn from. Besides Shakespeare, I have not studied much in the way of Classical English Theatre and as a potential English major it is important to broaden my horizons.

On a more personal level, I want to study abroad because I have never had the chance to live and learn on my own before. When I worked for Heritage Theatre Festival, I was living alone in an apartment, but that was only for a very short time and I had friends of friends coming in to check in on me. Even so, I still learned a lot about myself and how I operate without a larger support system or my parents. Moving to Charlottesville from Florida was not a huge step for me because my older sister also goes to UVA, she lives down the street from my residential college. If I got to go to one of these programs, it would not only be the first time I have ever gotten to leave the United States, but also it would be the first time I can go to a completely new place with no one there to support me. This sounds a little bit scary, but I am incredibly excited and know I will grow so much from being on my own.

I do understand that there is a lot of uncertainty surrounding the possibility of studying abroad at the current moment. This is part of the reason why I have chosen to wait and apply for the Spring semester as opposed to the Fall. I have met with a Study Abroad advisor and have done my best to learn all I can in order to comply with any and all UVA travel regulations. If I unfortunately unable to travel abroad due to Covid conditions, I will work closely with my advisor to revise my project.

Program Websites:

<https://www.lamda.ac.uk/all-courses/acting-directing-courses/semester-programme-classical-acting>

<https://tisch.nyu.edu/special-programs/study-abroad/london-rada>

Project Timeline

Summer 2021:

- Prepping any necessary audition and application materials and filming self-tape auditions if information is available.

Fall 2021:

- RADA Application due September 17th
- LAMDA application released October/November, admitted on a rolling basis.
- RADA Spring Study Abroad Auditions: October/November (Exact dates to be announced)

Spring 2022:

- LAMDA program starts: Early January (Estimated January 11th)
- LAMDA program ends: Early April (Estimated April 2nd)
- RADA program starts: Early January (dates to be released)
- RADA program ends: Late April (dates to be released)
- Presentation at the Center for Undergraduate Excellence (short performance and explanation of studies): First week of April or scheduled separately*

*I am aware that I may not be in the United States during the first week of April, when outcome presentations and performances are usually given. If I am still traveling during that time, I am absolutely willing and able to give my presentation remotely.

Proposed Budget:

LAMDA:

Expense:	Amount:	Details:
LAMDA Tuition	\$14,243.03	
Application fee	\$28.94	Paid before acceptance
Housing	\$2,8910 to \$4,340*	For 14 weeks
Travel	\$1,200	Would depart and return from Tampa, FL.
Food	\$1,400	\$100 each week for 14 weeks
Total Expenses	\$21, 211.97*	

*total includes highest housing estimate

Income:	Amount:
Miller Art's Third Year Award	\$3,000
Personal Contributions	\$18,211.97
Total	\$21, 211.97

RADA through NYU:

Expense:	Amount:	Details:
NYU Tuition	\$28,802	Estimated based on 2020-2021 tuition
Registration and Service Fees	\$1,338	
Theatre in London Fee	\$150	
Housing	\$5,797-\$10,559	Required to live in NYU student housing
Food	\$1400	\$100 for ~14 weeks
Total	\$42,249*	

*total includes highest housing estimate

Income:	Amount:
Miller Art's Third Year Award	\$3,000
Personal Contributions	\$39,249
Total	\$42,249

Evidence of Participation in the Arts:

I have been heavily involved with the Dramatic arts at UVa from the moment I stepped foot on grounds, and even a little before then. The Summer before my first year, I was hired as a Production Assistant for Heritage Theatre's production of *Pride and Prejudice*. I learned a lot from that program and got an early introduction to the Drama department, which is now my academic home base.

During my First year Fall semester, I was cast in the Drama Department's production of *She Kills Monsters* and joined the Student Council Arts Committee, which I remain a part of to this day. I also became Brown College Governance Board's Hauntings Cochair, in charge of designing and building a haunted house for charity on Monroe Hill. Spring 2019 was obviously cut short by Covid, but I was able to act in an FMS short film, become a member of the UVa Drama Arts Board, and join the cast of First Year Players production of *Kiss Me Kate* before it was cancelled due to the University shutting down.

Last Fall I was part of the ensemble of *Love and Information*, where I was able to explore my love of film. I also put up a miniature version of the usual Brown College Haunted house exclusively for Brown College residents. This semester I the most involved in UVa arts than I have ever been. In addition to getting accepted to the Miller Arts Scholars program, I also have been cast in three films for *Overcranked*. I am also doing SFX makeup for two of them, in addition to being an artistic director for one of those films. I was also cast in an independent FMS film. I have completed five courses in the Drama department and I am taking two this semester.