

Jakob Cansler

4 October 2019

Art Scholar Minigrant Application (Fall 2019)

Directing a Staged Reading

For the past two years, I have slowly shifted my focus within theatre towards directing and fully intend on continuing that trend. So far at UVA, I've directed productions of *A View from the Bridge* and *Constellations* through Spectrum Theatre and Virginia Players, respectively. I have also assistant directed a production of *Steel Magnolias* with Heritage Theatre Festival and a production of *Lungs* with the Drama Department.

Now, I want to continue gaining experience with directing this semester in two parts. First, I want to expand my exposure to plays by ordering and reading eighteen scripts, so that I will have more knowledge of the theatre canon, and also so that I will own those plays should I need copies of them in the future. When looking for plays to purchase, I specifically sought out plays that I could possibly see myself directing in the future, so having knowledge of these plays will be even more useful as I continue my studies and eventually start a career in directing.

Then, having read those plays, I intend to direct a staged reading of the play *Collected Stories* by Donald Marguiles, performed by fellow arts scholars Veronica Seguin and Maille-Rose Smith. This would be done through student theatre group Spectrum Theatre with about two weeks of rehearsal. While the actors would still have scripts in their hands, and the set would be very minimal, the process of doing scene work and blocking would still be roughly the same. Then, after about two weeks of rehearsal, the staged reading would be performed twice at the end of November. This would give me even more experience with directing for theatre and would challenge me to work on a more stripped-down production. Additionally, by working with just two performers who are fully committed to pursuing a career in theatre, I would be able to work more closely with the actors and imitate a more professional rehearsal process.

My main goal in taking these steps is to make myself more prepared for a career in the theatre industry. By reading and having on hand as many scripts as possible, I will be more knowledgeable of theatre canon and will be more prepared to go into a career in directing. Furthermore, by directing a staged reading, I will gain more hands-on experience with directing, especially with directing in a shorter time frame with minimal resources, which will challenge me as a director.

Scripts to Order

*all scripts cost \$10 from Dramatists unless otherwise listed

Stop Kiss by Diana Son

How I Learned to Drive by Paula Vogel

Disgraced by Ayad Ahktar

Clybourne Park by Bruce Norris

Ruined by Lynn Nottage

I Am My Own Wife by Doug Wright

A Doll's House Part 2 by Lucas Hnath

The Goat, or Who is Sylvia by Edward Albee

People, Places, and Things by Duncan Macmillan

Frost/Nixon by Peter Morgan

The Great Society by Robert Schenkkan

Hangmen by Martin McDonagh - \$15

Old Times by Harold Pinter - \$14

Travesties by Tom Stoppard - \$14

Plenty by David Hare - \$15

Democracy, Copenhagen, and Afterlife by Michael Frayn (Collection) - \$21

Budget

Item	Price
Theatrical Scripts (Listed Above)	\$189 + \$4 for shipping
Licensing for <i>Collected Stories</i>	\$200
Collected Stories Scripts	\$40
Costumes and Props for Staged Reading	\$50
TOTAL	\$483

Timeline

October

- Order Scripts, begin reading them
- Begin analyzing *Collected Stories* in preparation for rehearsals
- Reserve space to perform *Collected Stories*
- Purchase licensing for *Collected Stories*

Early November

- Begin rehearsals
- Gather necessary props and costumes

Late November

- Perform staged readings of *Collected Stories*