

Jakob H. Cansler
Artist Minigrant Application - Fall 2018

Researching British Acting and Directing Techniques

Sometime last year, I made the decision that I wanted to be a theatrical director, and I set forth on my studies with that goal in mind. So far, I have taken classes both inside and outside the drama department that have helped me hone my craft as a director. I've specifically chosen many classes that force me to read and analyze plays from different perspectives than I might normally be used to. I've also taken every opportunity I could to practice my art and put out constant work so that I can always be practicing directing. For example, I am currently directing a mainstage show with Spectrum Theatre, one of the student-run theatre groups on grounds. However, simply taking classes and creating my own work is not enough on its own to help me fully hone my craft as a director and artist. Whenever I ask directors who have worked in the theatre industry for advice, there is always one consistent piece of advice: see as much and as many types of theatre as you can. I've realized recently how imperative that experience is, because I won't be able to truly grow as an artist unless I can study and critique the work of other artists - namely, the work of other directors and actors. That is the main reason I want to embark on this project.

Project Description

My main goal in this project is to view as much professional, high-quality theatre as I can in a one week period so that I can study the techniques of the top artists in the business. Using the Artist Minigrant provided by the Miller Arts Scholars program, I intend to fly to London for five nights and see five professional shows on the West End over the course of my time there. I specifically chose London as a destination so that I could see many different styles of theatre all in one place. Of the five shows I intend to see, there are two contemporary British plays, one American classic play, a Shakespearean play, and an experimental new musical. I specifically chose these plays in particular because I believe that seeing many different kinds of theatre will allow me to compare the different acting and directing choices made for each style of theatre, which will be an important skill for me as I move forward in my career. I intend to research each show before seeing it, including researching the artistic staff that worked on the show, so I can compare this work to their previous works. I then intend to take notes during each performance and write a reflection piece after each one. Doing all of this will help me better remember and apply which techniques I thought were the most effective.

In conclusion, I believe that embarking on this study will help me study the directing and acting techniques that I've been learning about over the past few semesters as they are put into use. This experience will help me to critically analyze several different types of theatre and the techniques used on the West End to create professional, high-quality productions. In the end, I can use those same techniques to bring my directing skills up a notch when I return and begin working on new projects. After all, it is a common proof that the best artists learn from other artists, and that is exactly what I intend to do through this experience.

Budget

All prices in British pounds have already been converted to US dollars.

Item	Cost	Details and More Info
Show Tickets		Ticket prices are based on the average of the range of prices listed online.
The Inheritance, Parts 1 and 2	\$117.67	https://www.inheritanceplay.com/
Hadestown	\$71.25	https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/shows/hadestown
Antony and Cleopatra	\$71.25	https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/shows/antony-and-cleopatra
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	\$43.55	https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/shows/the-curious-incident-of-the-dog-in-the-night-time
True West	\$44.48	https://www.truewestlondon.com/
Subtotal	\$348.20	
Lodging (5 nights)	~\$300	This price many seem low, but that is because I plan on staying in a youth hostel to save money, similar to the one here .
Food	~\$250	
Travel		
Flight	\$400	
Train, Stansted to London Central (Round-Trip)	\$18.30	
Oyster Card Travel	\$50	
Subtotal	\$468.30	
Total*	\$1,366.5	
Anticipated Income		
Miller Arts Scholar Minigrant	\$500	
Remaining Cost*	\$866.50	

*Since the overall cost exceeds \$500, I plan on using the full amount of the minigrant to pay for show tickets and to help curb the cost of lodging. All other expenses will come from my own personal funds. That being said, this experience would be impossible without the financial support of the Miller Arts Scholars.

Timeline

October/November

- Purchase airline ticket, show tickets, and hotel booking
- Complete requirements of the International Studies Office for travelling abroad for research

Sunday, January 6

- Fly out of US (Most likely NYC or Boston)

Monday, January 7

- Arrive at London Stansted Airport
- Take train from Stansted to London Central
- Attend evening performance*

Tuesday, January 8

- Attend evening performance*

Wednesday, January 9

- Attend *The Inheritance, Parts 1 and 2*
 - Part 1 is a matinee
 - Part 2 is an evening performance

Thursday, January 10

- Attend evening performance*

Friday, January 11

- Attend evening performance*

Saturday, January 12

- Take train from London Central to Stansted Airport
- Fly back to US (Most likely NYC or Boston)

*Which shows I see on which days will depend on ticket availability for each performance.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.