

Alexandra D'Elia

Project Title: *A Dança Portuguesa*

Last spring I was awarded a Third Year Award by Miller Arts Scholars to conduct research in the field of dance during my semester abroad in Lisbon, Portugal, and create a video documentary as my final product. The Award will fund transportation in Lisbon, dance classes, one iPhone 6s 4-in-1 camera lens, one GorillaPod Stand, two one-terabyte hard drives, and airfare. I am extremely grateful for Miller Arts Scholars' generosity and funding. However, there is still more that can be done to take my final project to the next level. For this reason, I propose this Minigrant to help further equip my project, *A Dança Portuguesa*, so that it may result in a superb video documentary.

Below I have copied parts of the overview of *A Dança Portuguesa* from my Third Year Award original proposal.

With assistance from the Miller Arts Scholars Third Year Arts Award, I will spend the spring semester of 2017 studying abroad in Lisbon at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa (UNL), through a language and culture program with CIEE, and I will conduct research on the different dance styles taught and practiced in Portuguese culture. I will take dance classes at a studio called *STEPS: escola de dança e artes do espectáculo*. *STEPS* offers dance classes in many different dance styles: Kizomba, Semba, Funaná, Eastern and Indian dance, Tango, Tap Dance, Forró, Samba, Salsa and Cuban Music. What interests me about this diverse group of classes is that each dance style is unique to a specific Portuguese territory. For example, Semba is a type of music and dance from Angola, while Forró is a type of music and dance from Northeastern Brazil. I will take classes in as many styles as possible (specifically Kizomba, Semba, Funaná, Tango, Tap Dance, Forró), conduct research on the history of the dance and culture it derives from, record myself taking classes, attend and record performances, conduct and film interviews with local dance artists, and create a video documentary as my final project. Throughout this process, I will be careful to receive consent before recording and / or interviewing someone for my documentary.

I am very interested in learning about Portuguese culture and politics. The study of movement and dance will give me a better understanding of this culture and its value systems. This project will also deepen my appreciation of Portuguese culture as well as the other cultures that were once part of the Portuguese Empire. *A Dança Portuguesa* perfectly encompasses all of my areas of interests, and that is why I am asking for the assistance of the Miller Arts Scholars Program to help fund this project that will nurture my academic experience. My mentor for this project will be Kim Brooks Mata, but I will also be working closely with Wyatt Andrews on the documentary-making portion of my project.

As stated in the Project Overview of *A Dança Portuguesa*, I plan on conducting interviews during my semester abroad to incorporate in my video documentary. Interviews are crucial to any video as they serve as the narrative and base of the story. The script of the video story as well as the footage seen rely heavily on the script of the interview. For this reason, it is very important to shoot excellent interview footage.

A well-shot interview is shot from at least two different angles. Below are two photos from a profile video I created of Aspen Miller, Miller Arts Scholars President, demonstrating an interviewee shot from two different angles.



I have an iPhone 6s with the 4-in-1 lens and GorillaPod Stand to set up one shot of the interview, but a shot from a second angle will take my video documentary to the next level. This second angle of the interview will engage the viewer throughout the video and alter the mood and tone of the film. For this reason, I am proposing that, by means of a Minigrant, the University of Virginia Miller Arts Scholars Program help fund a GoPro HERO4 Silver to serve as my second documentation tool to help create an exceptional video documentary.



The GoPro HERO4 Silver is the best product for what I need because it is the most affordable high-performance camera and has a built-in touch display that I can use to set up the correct shots and angles for shooting interviews and other footage. This Go-Pro captures 1080p60 and 720p120 video with lifelike clarity, plus 12MP photos at a staggering 30 frames per second. Important to me is that the GoPro can be used to preview photos and videos to frame my shots perfectly. The HERO4 features an enhanced sensor, capturing stunning 1080p60 video that is sharper and more lifelike than ever. The high-resolution, high frame rate delivers exceptionally smooth slow-motion playback. The new Night Photo and Night Lapse modes offer customizable exposure settings of up to 30 seconds for single and Time Lapse photos. The HERO4 Silver also features built-in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, so that once connected to the GoPro App, my phone is transformed into a live video remote from the camera, offering full control of all functions and settings, easy shot preview and playback, plus sharing via text, email, Facebook and more. The Auto Low Light mode intelligently changes frame rates based on lighting conditions for optimal low-light performance, enabling me to move between bright and dark environments without having to adjust camera settings. The HERO4 Silver also has QuikCapture convenience, where the GoPro can be turned into a one-button camera, allowing me to power on and start recording automatically with the press of a single button. The HERO4 also has impressive audio performance, featuring a powerful new audio system, it's cutting-edge microphone delivers

nearly 2x the dynamic range, while a best-in-class audio algorithm ensures recording sound smoother and more natural than ever. And finally, Protune for photo and video unlocks the camera’s full potential, delivering minimally compressed, cinema-caliber video optimized for professional productions, and advanced manual controls for photos and video.

I request the following funds for the GoPro HERO4 Silver:

GoPro HERO4 Silver: \$370

To ensure stability during a shoot, I will need a mount to put the GoPro on.



This ultra versatile mount can be used three main ways: as a camera grip, extension arm or tripod. The folding arm is perfect for POV or follow-cam footage, which is excellent for my project and will be used exponentially when shooting dance classes and performances. When detached from the arm, the handle doubles as a camera grip. Stored inside the handle is a lightweight, mini tripod that can be removed and used on its own or combined with the handle. It expands to 20” and collapses to 7.5”.

I request the following funds for the GoPro 3-Way mount:

3-Way: \$85

I appreciate the maximum support deemed reasonable by the advisory committee to help create a professional and superb final project.

In summary, I request the following funds to further aid and equip *A Dança Portuguesa*:

GoPro HERO4 Silver	\$370
3-Way (mount)	\$85
Total:	\$455

I greatly appreciate the Miller Arts Scholars advisory committee for taking this Minigrant proposal into consideration.