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Miller Arts Scholars Mini Grant Proposal  
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### **We'll Hear a Play**

In the throes of a lonely summer in a strange new city, I yearned for something other than my favorite bluegrass Spotify playlist to keep me company every morning while getting ready for my morning commute. Thus, I entered the world of podcasts. From *The New York Times* podcast "Dear Sugars" to a 1956 production of *Waiting for Godot* (starring Bert Lahr), I knew my life as an artist was forever changed. I began listening, almost obsessively, to weekly podcasts and radio dramas. Something I was previously disinterested in turned into a huge part of my daily routine, and even incited an artistic discovery. Until I listened to the recording of *Waiting for Godot*, I suffered from what I thought was an indestructible aversion to the play. However, being able to actually *hear* (and therefore, understand) the play is now considered a milestone in my artistic life. This experience made me really understand that an aural experience of theatre can be notably more informative than simply reading the text- something I hadn't considered before.

One of my current artistic endeavors is to explore dramatic writing more and learn how to creatively adapt old, public domain plays. I am requesting the \$500 Miller Arts Scholars Artist Minigrant to help support my exploration of dramatic writing specifically through the medium of podcasting. I recently began working with playwriting professor Doug Grissom on a podcast project in the capacity as a writer. However, I am interested in learning all aspects of producing a podcast series. As a young artist, I strive to have the control to produce as much content as I want to make, and to have the resources to independently explore adapting and producing drama (and to do it well).

Therefore, I am requesting a Minigrant to help fund the education and equipment I need to explore this medium of dramatic writing and production. The most integral expense to this project is a highly-rated online class called "How to Start a Podcast" from an arts education service called Creative Live. This course has four different sections "Podcasting 101," "Essential Storytelling Techniques," "Start Your Profitable Podcast & Build a Brand," and "Power Your Podcast with Storytelling." Each class is taught by an expert in that particular subject within podcasting, and each class consists of a few hours of course material. My goal is to finish the "Podcasting 101" course within 10 days of receiving the funding. In this course I will learn the business side of podcasting and what gear is necessary and once completed, I will proceed to purchase equipment with the remainder of the Minigrant funds. I have conducted some research to get an estimate of my financial needs, and my budget includes the type of equipment that I would expect to buy.

Once I have the equipment and as I continue through the course, I will begin adapting *The Bear*, a one-act play by Anton Chekhov, into a radio drama. This play is fairly short, and I expect to have a final draft complete in the beginning of November. Once finalized, I will record, edit, and produce the radio drama, guided by the knowledge gained from the podcasting class and having access to the equipment. After producing my adaptation of *The Bear*, I plan to continue using my experience and the equipment to produce more adaptations as well as my own original work. Ideally, I will use my resources and brain power to produce a radio drama series in the spring semester, after spending the fall semester learning the basics of podcasting and creating radio dramas.

## Budget

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total</b>
<a href="#">Creative Live Class: How to Start a Podcast</a>	Tuition	Highly-rated online classes on all aspects of podcasting- from the business side to creative writing and production.	\$158.00
<a href="#">Blue Yeti USB Microphone with Pop Filter</a>	Equipment	The standard microphone for low-budget yet high-quality work. Multiple sound patterns, so it can do well with recording multiple voices at once.	\$139.89
<a href="#">Heil Sound PL-2T Overhead Broadcast Boom</a>	Equipment	A stand to hold this particular microphone, which is heavier than most inexpensive microphones.	\$120.00
<a href="#">Blue Radius II Microphone Shock Mount for Yeti and Yeti Pro with Improved Hinge Design</a>	Equipment	Shock mount to isolate the microphone from noise, shock, and vibrations. Particularly useful since I will be recording multiple people at once.	\$53.14
<a href="#">External Hard Drive 1TB</a>	Equipment	I already have Adobe editing software, but my computer does not have the storage capacity for editing and storing high-quality projects. An external hard-drive would ensure that I am able to edit and preserve my work without lowering the quality.	\$52.99
		<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$509.59</b>
		Anticipated Income	\$500.00
		<b>Remaining Costs*</b>	<b>\$9.59</b>

## Timeline

- October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 – Finish first class and purchase equipment
- November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Finish adaptation of *The Bear*
- November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Record *The Bear*
- November 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Edit *The Bear*
- December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 – Publish\*\* *The Bear*

\*I will use my personal funds to cover the remaining costs.

\*\*I plan on publishing my work either through a site like Soundcloud or Spotify, but if this does not work, I will publish it through WTJU's podcasting platform, TEEJ.