

Meggie Ferguson

[mff9yby@virginia.edu](mailto:mff9yby@virginia.edu)

Miller Arts Scholars Spring 2022

### Embracing European Theatre and Art: Outcome Report

This spring, I studied abroad in London. Prior to this January, I had never been on a plane, much less been out of the country. The past two years have emphasized to me just how precious of an endeavor travelling is, and how it should never be taken for granted. Therefore, I wanted to make the most of this opportunity abroad to explore as much of what Europe has to offer artistically as possible, which is what I used this grant to do. Through the theatre studies program that I was enrolled in, we had to see nine shows as a class which were subsequently discussed the following week. As the weeks went on, I found that those nine shows weren't enough. I wanted to get to see fun musicals with my friends and new shows by smaller companies that I otherwise wouldn't have gone to see. With each new show that I watched came more inspiration in the form of different acting techniques, innovative set design, and mind-blowing choreography/staging. I ultimately saw 18 shows while I was abroad ranging from timeless musicals, new works, a musical theatre school's showcase, and even a mime festival!

In addition to theatre and the performing arts, I consumed more visual art, history, and architecture this semester than I had in a long time. While many of London's main galleries and museums were free, some of the spots that I wanted to visit while I was travelling in other countries, such as the Louvre in Paris and The Book of Kells in Dublin, required tickets, which I used this grant to pay for. When I was much younger, I used to consider myself more of a visual artist. I loved to paint, draw, color – I thought that I would become an artist when I grew up. However, as I got older and my confidence grew, I distanced myself from visual art as I found myself becoming more comfortable onstage and yearning to broaden my performance experiences. I have always considered myself an interdisciplinary artist, finding ways for my love of dance, music, acting, and flute to support and enhance each other. This semester, I feel as if I have begun to fold visual art back into my craft. I never tired of stopping into galleries as part of my daily routine, or of walking around outside for hours, ogling the artistry of the beautiful architecture surrounding me in each new city I visited.

As I have grown and shifted my focus as an artist over the years, I have stayed true to my belief that a wild imagination and appreciation of artistry are at the center of some of the best creativity and art-making. I have never been filled with more awe, inspiration, and child-like joy than I was exploring theatres and palaces and galleries this spring. I am teeming with ideas and energy that I intend to express not only in future artistic projects, but also in my day-to-day life as I aim to exude creativity and ingenuity in everything that I do. I am forever grateful to Miller Arts for giving me the opportunity to maximize the potential of my abroad experience, for allowing me to spend so many nights in the theatre laughing and crying as splendid stories unfolded, and for helping me to reignite my love and appreciation for all forms of art.

## Expenses

Item	Price
<b>Theatre tickets</b>	
<i>Wuthering Heights</i> ticket	\$47.49
<i>After the End</i> ticket	\$16.31
<i>Merchant of Venice</i> ticket	\$41.93
<i>Six</i> ticket	\$39.57
<i>Mamma Mia</i> ticket & program	\$127
<i>The Drifters Girl</i> ticket	\$28
<i>&amp;Juliet</i> ticket	\$47.86
<i>Les Miserables</i> ticket	\$30.72
<i>For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Hue Gets Too Heavy</i> ticket	\$15
<b>Museum &amp; Gallery tickets</b>	
Louvre ticket	\$18.97
The Little Museum of Dublin ticket	\$9
The Book of Kells ticket	\$16.79
Victoria & Albert Museum exhibit ticket	\$26.50
Holyrood Palace ticket	\$15.33
Edinburgh Castle ticket	\$20.66
<b>Total:</b>	\$501.13

## Gallery



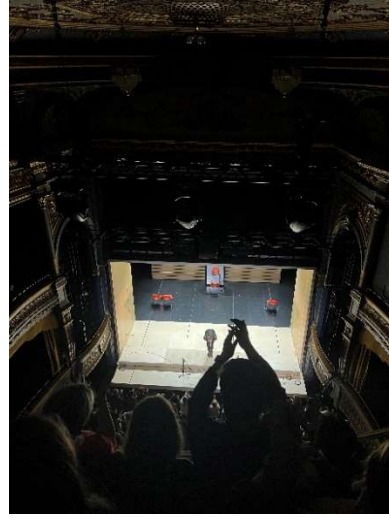
The set for *&Juliet*



My friends & I met the actress who plays Juliet in  
*&Juliet*, Miriam-Teak Lee!



The Globe – where I saw *The Merchant of Venice*



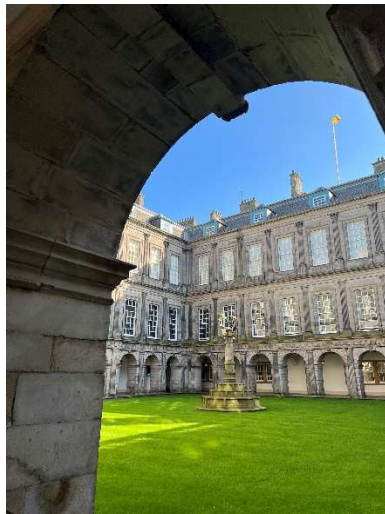
James McAvoy bowing after playing Cyrano in *Cyrano de Bergerac*



From my visit to the Louvre – a lifelong dream!



From the Book of Kells in Dublin



Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh



From Holyrood Palace – a potential Ferguson ancestor!

