

Bates Dance Festival

Project Overview Narrative

Proposal:

For three weeks every summer since 1983, the Bates Dance Festival in Lewiston, Maine has attracted students, teachers, performers, and choreographers of dance from around the globe, each with a desire to learn and create in their art. The Professional Training Program, a program for intermediate level dancers within the festival, offers daily classes, workshops, discussions, informal showings, and more. The experience is heightened by the strong sense of community fostered through shared meals, evening activities, and on-campus housing for students and faculty alike.

This year, the Bates Dance Festival will be offering classes from a variety of dance disciplines including modern, ballet, jazz, afro-modern, Spiraldynamik, Pilates, yoga, and contact improvisation. There will also be more academically based courses on choreography, movement and writing, the business of dance, film and media, and natural body systems. Classes will be taught by extremely gifted faculty that are powerful forces in their respective corners of the dance community, and they will be accompanied by live musical artists.

I am hoping to receive funding to attend this exceptional summer program, because it is an incredible opportunity for learning and growth on my path as a dance artist. When I was very young, I trained in ballet quite seriously, but as I grew older, I danced exclusively with my high school's program. I am fortunate to have had an outlet for expression, but my education was limited there. It is for this reason, that my journey through the college years and through U.Va.'s amazing dance program has been so impactful on my dancing art. I have already learned so much, but my journey has just begun. I am starting to find my creative voice, and I believe that one of the most effective ways of growing is by observing and interacting with others, which is exactly what the Bates Dance Festival provides. I am interested in attending this intensive summer program, because it provides an avenue for immense growth. I wish to continue to acquire new knowledge, gaining the tools to further discover and establish who I am as a dancer and to learn the many ways I can express that identity to others.

Accordingly, I would like to enroll in four credits: Choreolab II, Contact Improvisation, Afromodern III, and Moving/ Writing. I have chosen these classes in particular because they are continuations of the foundations I have established this year in my dance courses: Improvisation and Composition. In completing a full course load of four credits through the Professional Training

Program, I will receive a Bates College credit, which should be transferable to the U.Va. credit system.

I plan to document by journaling each day and taking videos and pictures of my progress. I am hoping to bring back what I will have learned at this program and apply it to my involvement in the dance program. As I am currently taking Dance Composition with Kim Brooks Mata, I will, as of next year, be eligible to choreograph for the Fall Dance Concert. I am excited to be able to contribute to the department in this way, and to finally showcase my work for the first time. All of this work will go into the outcome report/ presentation for the Miller Arts Scholars next April, which will be enhanced with videos and pictures of my studies and work in this area.

Timeline

Summer:

Saturday, July 16, 2016	- 2:00-6:00 PM Arrival
August 7, 2016	- Departure by 12:00 PM

Weekly Schedule:

9:00-10:30 AM	Choreolab II
11:00 AM-12:30 PM	Contact Improvisation
2:00-3:30 PM	Afro-Modern III: AFASAM
4:00-5:30 PM	Moving/ Writing

Fall:

(An ongoing process through)	Generation of material
TBD	Fall Experimental Dance Concert

Spring:

April 1, 2017	- Outcome report due
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Budget

Tuition: \$1,400 (if paid before 4/27, receive \$100 discount)

Meals & Board: \$1,390

Application Fee: \$55

Room Deposit Key: \$80 (refundable)

Air Travel: \$350

Bus: \$60 (potentially less)

Total: \$3,255 (\$3,155 with the 4/27 discount)

I understand that this amount exceeds that which is typically allotted to third year students, but I truly believe this experience to be crucial in the development of my voice and identity as a dance artist. The Bates Dance Festival was recommended to me by both of the faculty members from whom I sought advice in conceiving the idea for this proposal, which speaks to the program's credibility. In order to realize this dream, I am tentatively asking for \$2,500. From the savings I have gathered from working at Roots Natural Kitchen during this past school year, I believe I can cover the approximate \$755, however, without the help of the Miller Arts Scholars program, the likelihood of my attendance to Bates' Professional Training Program is significantly less and may prohibit it altogether. Therefore, any additional funding that the committee might provide to assist me and consequently ease the financial burden would be extremely helpful and appreciated.

Most of the amenities, such as room and board, are provided by Bates College, and tickets to performances are included. Because of these arrangements, I do not anticipate needing additional supplies, however, if any supplementary needs do arise, I will cover them out of pocket.