

Jack Gereski

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Miller Arts Scholar Minigrant Outcome Report

Over the past four months, I have been in the process of applying and preparing for auditions to continue my learning/training in acting. I have completed applications to the University Resident Theatre Association (URTAs), The Juilliard School, Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, and the Yale School of Drama. I have also passed the pre-screenings to the Southeastern Theatre Conference, and will attend the SETC Convention in Knoxville, TN in late February, in hopes of securing summer theatre employment before graduate school begins.

In preparation for the actual auditions, I have met with many faculty members and advisors to discuss my various options for schools, and have rehearsed audition material as well. I have read many plays, classical and contemporary alike, to find monologues that best suit me. I have filled out many applications, and created a different personal statement for each school also.

Thanks in large part to the Miller Arts Minigrant Award, the financial strain that comes with the application fees for all the schools and programs I wanted to apply to was lessened. The travel costs alone are incredibly expensive, not to mention saving up for graduate school itself.

My auditions begin on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in New York City for the URTAs. I will again travel to New York City the weekend after that for two more auditions. I will conclude with another trip to New Haven, CT for my last audition on the first weekend of February. While the tangible effects of the Minigrant Award are currently only visible through application confirmation emails from the various programs, I hope I will have more to show with an acceptance into graduate school in the coming months.

Once again, I'd like to thank the Miller Arts Scholars program for their support over the past few years in Minigrant awards and the Fourth-Year Arts Award. Through the support of this organization, I have been able to play a dream role, attend an acting conservatory program at Yale, and now apply to graduate school as I begin my journey to becoming a professional actor. I am incredibly grateful for the generosity of this wonderful community.