

**Jack Gereski**

## **Miller Art Scholar Minigrant Proposal**

### **Graduate School Application Fees**

I am applying for the Miller Arts Scholar Minigrant to help fund the application fees associated with applying to graduate school for Acting. As of now, I am planning to apply to at least four graduate programs: Yale School of Drama, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Professional Actor Training Program (PATP) at UNC-Chapel Hill, and the Actors Studio School at Pace University. I expect that the number of schools that I apply to will increase as more programs are recommended to me by advisors. Further, I plan to audition for the South Eastern Theatre Conference auditions. Since I do not yet have my Actor's Equity card, I must go through a Pre-Screening process in Norfolk on October 26. The total application fees associated with SETC are also quite expensive, with total cost (before travel) around \$170.

Even before admission into expensive graduate programs and auditions, the costs merely associated with auditioning will likely far exceed \$1,000. The \$500 Minigrant Award would provide crucial support to alleviate some of the financial burden I currently face.

This summer, with the support of the Arts Scholars Fourth-Year Award, I was able to attend a five-week acting conservatory program at Yale University. The Conservatory for Actors was taught by former and current Yale School of Drama graduates who have appeared on Broadway, Off-Broadway, in television and movies, and are either full-time working actors or instructors at various BFA programs around the country. Almost 13 hours a day, each day, was spent working on theatre, observing actors, and transforming into characters through the methods of Meisner. I could not get enough. The amount of knowledge that I gained in this short, rigorous, life-changing experience fully inspired me to learn more about my craft. This is why I intend to apply and attend a graduate acting program next year. The schools that I am applying for are the best of the best and selective; however, the confidence I gained from my experience at Yale taught me that I am competitive and desire to be around teachers/actors that share in my passion and love of acting.

I have been very active in the arts community at the University, and believe I have been a model student-performer in my previous three years. I was a performer with First Year Players, Spectrum Theatre, the Virginia Players, The Virginia Gentlemen a cappella group, and the Drama Department. I am also a Drama major, meaning that I've done plenty of work behind the scenes as well such as working in the costume lab for two semesters, co-managing UVA Drama publicity, and even performed as an actor for UVA's Bicentennial Launch Celebration. I have been incredibly involved in the arts, and will continue to be through graduation in May.

I hope that you will consider my application for the Miller Arts Scholars Minigrant, and thank you for your continual support throughout my years at the University.

**TIMELINE**

October 26:	Pre-Screening Audition for SETC
October 1-December 30:	Work on/Submit graduate school applications and auditions

**BUDGET**

Application Fees (Graduate School)	
Yale	\$110
NYU	\$100
UNC	\$90
Actor's Studio	\$70
SETC	\$170
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$540</b>

It is clear that my budget exceeds the allotment for a Minigrant Award; however, the help that the Award would give me would offset my personal costs, and allow me to keep more money to pay for travel/transportation and graduate school itself.

Thank you so much to the Arts Scholars for your consideration and generous support over the years. It has truly been an honor to be in this amazing program throughout college.