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Miller Arts Scholars Mini Grant Outcome Report

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Outcome Report: Resources for Dance Videography and Technique Improvement

This semester, thanks to the Miller Arts Scholars Program, I had the great opportunity to document some of my choreography and dancing. Specifically, my first goal was to record the dance I choreographed for the Virginia Dance Company this semester, and record more video for publicity. My second goal was to prepare to take dance classes consistently over the summer so that I could learn from new teachers and maintain and improve my fitness and technique.

After my dance, “Heroes,” was performed at the Virginia Dance Company Spring 2018 show, I prepared to film it by reserving space in the Helms, and learning to use my new camera equipment. Although originally I planned on purchasing a tripod dolly setup, after doing further research I realized that this setup did not accommodate my needs for portability. Instead, I purchased a camera stabilizer, called the iOgrapher Go. This was much more portable than a rolling tripod. Furthermore, I ended up purchasing a telescopic pole, in order to be able to get aerial shots and different angles. Unfortunately, on filming day, the shots taken with the pole were all oriented vertically by accident so they could not be used in the final cut. Nonetheless, I know I will use this tool in the future for filming dance.

Watch “Heroes”: <https://youtu.be/ez2e-DJYNiI>

At the end of the semester, I organized Virginia Dance Company’s first master class, with a teacher from NRG Dance Project, Emma Bradley. This was a big step for our company, so I took it as an excellent opportunity to use my new camera set up to record portions of the class with Emma Bradley so that they could be posted on Virginia Dance Company’s social media. This class was a big success, and I think having videos like this one will favorably impact the number of people who come out for auditions next year. Hopefully publicity like this will allow us to continue to host master classes with incredible choreographers like Emma Bradley.

Watch Virginia Dance Company’s master class with Emma Bradley:
https://www.instagram.com/p/BiSqHiWhO4l/?taken-by=uva_dco

Unfortunately, I still do not know where I will be this summer, so I do not know specifically at which studios I will be using the money I allotted for class. However, I do know that the camera equipment ended up being about fifteen dollars more than I anticipated; therefore, I am only going to use \$335 as opposed to the original \$350 I allotted for summer classes. I did however purchase the shoes I intended to, and I am very excited to see where this summer of dance takes me.

I learned a great deal about what makes a video pleasing to watch. It was hard to balance preserving the original integrity of my work with creating something that would be more interesting to watch on camera than live on a stage. I had to continually ask myself the question, “What about this video is advantageous for the audience over attending the Virginia Dance Company Show and seeing it live?” Figuring out how the camera can enhance my work and provide a new vantage point, is something I am still working on. Despite the new challenges I encountered, I am very pleased by how my work turned out this semester. I think knowing that

my choreography would be permanently documented in a meaningful way pushed me to create a piece I am proud of.

Furthermore, I was thrilled by the reactions I got from my friends and family who were unable to attend the show. They were able to experience something much closer to a live performance than a cell phone video of the reflection of a mirror or a far zoomed out video of Old Cabell Hall. I now have a high quality, professional looking video that I can use to update my dance reel.

I am very thankful to the Miller Arts Scholars Program and its donors for pushing me to express myself creatively and share my art with a wider audience.

Budget Report:

Item	
iOgrapher GO Action Camera Mount	\$49.99
Premium 3in1 Telescopic Pole & Tripod Base Kit for GoPro Hero.	\$30.99
Capezio Adult "Juliet" Leather Split-Sole Ballet Shoes	\$29.38
Adult "Pulse" Slip-On Jazz Shoes	\$41.65
Summer Classes	\$335.00
Total	487.01