

Rainah Gregory  
Miller Arts Scholars Rising Fourth Year Arts Award  
Faculty Mentor: Dave Dalton

### Yale Directing Intensive & Directing a Student Written Play

This coming academic year I would like to apply for the 2021 Yale Summer Directing Intensive and then stage a student written work for the UVA community. After taking Directing I with Professor Dalton in Fall 2019, I found myself yearning to learn more about the craft. After having previous training in acting, directing was a new venture. Though I have choreographed in the past and helped produce showcases (collaborating with sound and light designers), working with actors and staging a scene was a whole new world. Dave's constant support is greatly appreciated as he has answered questions and concerns as well as provided me with opportunities to grow and learn throughout my UVA experience thus far. I am very thankful for what I have learned from him and that is why I have chosen him as my mentor.

The Yale summer program is a ten day intensive called "A Practical Approach to Directing." The program consists of classes in directing practice, design, text analysis, voice, physicality, and stage management. This in depth course will help prepare me for the production I propose to produce as well as future work as a director by giving me in depth, intensive instruction. The course meets five to six days a week from nine in the morning to ten at night. This rigorous environment will not only supply tools for me to utilize but also help me to network with other student artists. I had previously submitted a proposal to attend this program last year however it was cancelled due to the pandemic.

The piece I am proposing to direct, *And then we saw the daughter of the minotaur* is written by current first year, and fellow arts scholar, Lily Franks. The piece has a poetic quality to it and draws technical inspiration from Brecht and Suzan-Lori Parks. This piece has an anticipated run time of at least forty five minutes however may reach an hour or more depending on elements such as choreography and an intermission. I first interacted with this piece through a student driven dramatic writing group that has been meeting virtually during the pandemic. The piece explores themes within greek mythology as well as gender, social hierarchy, lust, and art. I'm exploring the possibility of producing this play through the Virginia Players Lab Series or as an independent study project. I will work with my mentor on the logistics of this as well as an appropriate/available space to stage this in.

Through this project I hope to apply what I learn at Yale to conceptualize and stage the premiere of Lily's play. Reading their words, I immediately began to envision ways to incorporate other mediums. For example, the play calls for a chorus which could be filled with dancers wearing masks similar to those found in traditional greek theatre. As a student director I think it is important to explore mediums and how they can be integrated to create a congruent piece. I will also learn how to communicate with different departments effectively. I believe this program and production will help further my training as a director. By providing me with a hands

on experience to apply what I have learned at UVA and Yale, I hope to share with the community the assemblance of my studies and the culmination of my artistic voice thus far through this production.

### **Yale Summer Intensive**

The course is comprised of six classes related to the pillars of directing:

**Directing Practice:** The work of the director ranging from approaching the text, to articulating an active point of view for a production, and to working with actors in rehearsal.

**Design:** Explores means for developing the physical environment of a production based on a director's response to a text and its requirements.

**Text Analysis:** Identifies the elements that make up the world of the text and examines their potential influences on a production.

**Voice:** Draws on performers' training in vocal production--as well some simple techniques--to help vocally command a rehearsal room.

**Physicality:** Experiments with and strategies for approaching stage composition, physical life, and emotional gesture.

**Stage Management:** Introduces the principles of organizing all aspects of a production, communicating them clearly, and realizing them in performance.

Each class meets multiple times over the course of the 10 days, focusing on practical tools which aid the director in developing a production. The program culminates in a lab where students present projects in rehearsal.

### **Production (Rough) Timeline**

Spring 2021

- Rewrites/Script workshop

Summer 2021

- Workshop/meetings with playwright
- Vision Board/conceptualization
- Communicate with Drama Dept and mentor as to what is possible in terms of space, set, dates

Fall 2021

- Auditions
- Begin rehearsals

Spring 2022

- Tech
- Performances

## Participation in the Arts

### Classes:

- Screenwriting - Doug Grissom
- Directing I - Dave Dalton
- Musical Theatre Performance - Greg Harris
- Poetry Writing - Emily Nason
- Fiction Writing - Miriam Grossman
- Intermediate Fiction Workshop - Thomas Pierce
- Script Analysis - Doug Grissom
- Overcranked (Screenwriting/Film Directing) - Doug Grissom/Paul Wagner
- Sound Design - Michael Rasbury/Wren Curtis
- Performance and/as Theory - Katelyn Wood

### Productions:

- New Works Festival 2020 (Actor)
- *Love and Information* (Actor)
- *Watch Me* (Director, Virginia Players Lab Series)
- New Works Festival 2021 (Writer)

### Extra Curriculars:

- University Vocal Jazz
- Dramatic Writing Group

### Other:

- Comedy Knight 2020 - Winner of Written Submission
- Miller Arts Scholar (Drama)
- SDC Fellow

### Upcoming Projects:

- So I Guess We're Doing This (Writer/Director, Overcranked Film)

## Budget

Item	Estimated Cost	Details/Notes
<b>Yale Directing Intensive</b>		
Tuition	950	
Technology Fee	85	
<b>Subtotal:</b>	1035	
<b>Production</b>		
Set	500	
Props	300	
Costumes	300	
Hair & Makeup	300	Including Masks
Projections	100	
Lighting	100	
Sound	100	
<b>Subtotal:</b>		
Contingency	165	
<b>Subtotal:</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	3000	