

Artist Minigrant Application  
Proposal to Fund Equipment for Research  
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### **Theatre Through the Camera**

My name is Steven Johnson and I am a second-year Drama major with a concentration in Lighting Design. I am requesting funding for photography equipment that will allow me to improve upon my portfolio, and study how lighting interacts with the camera and impacts photography by the use of a Canon Eos Rebel T6i Camera and Lens.

#### **Project Description**

Since coming to the University of Virginia I have been working on crafting my portfolio for Lighting Design so that I can present it to employers when applying for design positions. In preparation of the South Eastern Theatre Conference Job Fair I attended in Greensboro, NC, in early March I created a website to display my portfolio. <http://johnsonsteven501.wix.com/stevendjohnson> While I am proud of what I was able to do for my portfolio, I do not feel that all the production pictures I have due justice in expressing my lighting designs. Some of the photos I have were taken by Jack Looney; a professional photographer brought into archive the 2015 Fall Dance Concert. However for some of my other productions I have had to rely on using video or pictures from an iPhone, which do not have the clarity or focus I wish my photos to have to convey my intent with both my design and how I am presenting that design. The way the human eye perceives images can greatly vary compared to how a camera will see the same image, but it is important to manipulate the camera into seeing the theatre design in the same way as the human eye does to convey the same meanings. To overcome this obstacle I

am proposing a personal research project focusing on photography in the theatre. I will study photography as a device to capture, preserve, and drive conversations about theatre design by first photographing my lighting designs for the Spring 2016 Musical Theatre Review and 2016 Senior Seminar Performance. I will then increase the level of difficulty by photographing larger and more complex theatre designs at Lyric Theatre in Oklahoma City, where I will be working as a production electrician for the summer. I also plan to use photography document my experiences traveling alone to Oklahoma for the first time. The photos I take of the Musical Theatre Review and Senior Seminar I will add to my portfolio, however the ones I take at Lyric Theatre I cannot, as they are not my designs. So instead I will create a slide show comprised of the photographs from Lyric Theatre as well as ones from my documentation of my journey in Oklahoma that illustrates what I was able to learn about photography and theatre, as well as how I changed or improved my techniques.

### **Timeline**

The Musical Theatre Review will be shot on May 8<sup>th</sup>, and the Senior Seminar production will be shot on May 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. Photography from both will be uploaded to my website by May 15<sup>th</sup>. I will leave for Oklahoma City from Virginia on June 9<sup>th</sup> and spend two days driving there photographing my journey. I will then begin working for Lyric Theatre and will photograph designs from the four productions they have for their summer season. I will leave Oklahoma City and make the drive back to Virginia beginning August 18<sup>th</sup>. I will work on my slideshow throughout the summer to have it presentation ready for my outcome report, and will then continue to revise it until I have returned to Virginia in late August.

## Budget

Item Price	(Tax included Free shipping)
Canon – EOS Rebel T6i DSLR Camera with EF-S 18-55mm IS STM Lens	\$737.09

The Rebel T6i is a professional grade camera with a 24.2 Megapixel CMOS (APS-C) sensor and an ISO sensitivity of ISO 100 -12800, which will help to capture photos in theatre where there is often low light but a high dynamic range. It can shoot up to 5 frames per second continuously, which will help when trying to capture theatre in movement whether it be actors, set pieces, or both. I will cover the additional \$237.09 that the grant will not.