

To Whom It May Concern:

First and foremost, I thank you for your nomination to be an Arts Scholar for the summer of 2011. With regard to how I would use the fund from this award, I could imagine several different possible courses of action to help with my research as a sound designer. However, of all of the possible avenues that I could pursue, one comes to the top of my priority list. I would propose that I use the bulk of the \$3,000 as travel expenses to spend one week in New York City this summer working on the Transport Group's production of *The Patsy/Jonas* at the Duke Theater, off Broadway. Michael Rasbury has asked me to be his Associate Designer on this production, and I hope to travel with him and aid with the sound design of this show.

I have found over the course of my time at the University of Virginia that taking classes and reading books about our field will only be able to take us so far before we simply need to see some of our work executed in real life. I have been fortunate enough to have several of my own designs produced by U. Va. Drama, and with each production I succeeded in some ways and made mistakes in others. In the end though, each show has, in its own way, allowed me to become a better and more versatile designer.

In addition to these experiences, I recently received a grant from our department to work on *Hello Again*, a more eccentric production with the Transport Group. This experience took me out of the relatively safe and supportive environment of our theaters and forced me to see the production process in a whole new light, with a whole new group of people. It was an eye-opening experience where I was able to learn a lot about the way that I work, and how other people work. That said, I am not so closed-minded as to think that I do not have something more to learn from an off-Broadway experience. If anything, now that I have worked on one show and gotten my bearings, I'll be able to work harder and learn more from the production this summer.

In total, I would anticipate needing about \$1,500 for travel and food costs this summer. The \$3000 from the Arts Scholars funds would be a significant help in easing the financial burden of this opportunity, and allow me to save up money that I would otherwise have used so that I can find other ways to apply myself in the rest of the summer, and my 4th year.

With the remaining half of the Arts Scholar funds I would like to invest in some audio programs or plug-ins, so that I can bring myself up to date on any industry-standard programs that I have yet to own a copy of—most notably ProTools 9. I believe the act of bringing myself up to the standards of my industry is just as important as the experiences that I will gain in New York over the summer. Having these tools and the skills to use those tools in my possession will allow me to be more competitive once I leave U. Va. and begin seeking design jobs in Washington D.C. or New York City.

In short, I would appreciate the honor of being our department's Arts Scholar for 2011, and think that the aid that comes with the title would do wonders for my progress as a sound designer in an increasingly competitive professional world.

I appreciate your time, and wish you all the best.

Regards,
Max Krembs