

Drew McCarter MAS Minigrant Proposal

Project Title: Cinematography Advancement

Nature of Research: I was an actor when I became a Miller Arts Scholar and I continue to be an actor. My main reason for becoming a Miller Arts Scholar was to grow and be influenced by different forms of art. I can confidently say that I have matured significantly as an artist since become a MAS. Last semester I took two classes that had major influences on me, one being the MAS seminar class, the other being Cinematography with Kevin Everson. I took cinematography because I have had a love for film my entire life and I figured I could learn to be a better actor to know what it's like to be behind a camera. I did more than just learn as an actor though, I fell in love with a new art form. I am now partaking in as much cinematography as I am acting.

In my cinematography class I was fortunate enough to shoot and edit on real film. It was very difficult but simultaneously extremely fulfilling. If I could shoot on real film for the rest of my life I gladly would, because film retains an authenticity that is often lacking in HD video. The only problem is that a 2.5 minute role of black and white film is thirty dollars. As of now I do not have that kind of money. I began looking into getting a DSLR camera but those are also extremely expensive, and then I realized that I had an iPhone. My iPhone can shoot in 4K which is extremely high quality. I have decided that the most lucrative path for furthering my skills as a cinematographer is to use an iPhone. I discovered a device called a Beastgrip Pro which allows you to attach real camera lenses to an iPhone. I have purchased a few lenses for my Beastgrip and I am currently borrowing a few from my cinematography professor. I would like to move in the direction of having some of my own lenses though. I purchased the basic essentials with the money I made from working over winter break, but sadly I have come up short for one last piece of equipment. The piece of equipment I'm trying to obtain is a [Cannon EF 50mm f1.4 USM Lens](#) which costs \$400.00. There is a knock off lens that is only \$50, that works pretty well. The only problem is that while focusing the knockoff lens it makes quite a bit of noise which means taking video is virtually impossible because any audio would be rendered useless. I realize it is a lot of money for a single piece of equipment but I have been looking at enhancing my iPhoneography as an investment because once I get out of college I will not have any way to use the extremely nice DSLR cameras offered in the DML.

I am taking cinematography again this semester and I have been doing as much research outside of class as possible on my own time. I have also been enlisted to be the cinematographer on a student film for the class that Doug Grissom and Paul Wagner are co-teaching. I've started to write my own material as well and plan on filming it after I finish Cinematography on the student film.

Objectives: Obtain a Cannon EF 50mm f1.4 USM lens to allow me to be more independent as a filmmaker.

Significance: As of now I own an extreme wide angle lens (warps the image), am borrowing a wide angle lens (good for establishing shots), am borrowing a telephoto lens (good for extreme close-ups). The one camera lens I do not have is a 50mm which is often cited as the most standard most used lens for filmmakers on a tight budget.

How work will be conducted: If I were to receive the funding I would order the lens and proceed to perfect my skills as a cinematographer. I will start learning by shooting mostly nature and then move on to people and finally narrative film.

Schedule for completion: Begin filming for student film March 10. Will not be filming March 15-18 (will be acting in a film) or March 22-25 (will be on a cinematography class field trip to NYC). Ideally this project will be done April 1st but it is possible that filming will not finish until April 15th because of extra footage or bad weather.

Budget:

- Cannon Lens costs \$400.
- Minigrant is \$500.

Were I to receive the full \$500 I would use the extra \$100 for a [beastgrip-x-kenko-pro-series-0-75x-wide-angle-lens](#) which is \$170. I would put the last \$100 towards this lens Pro Series .75x wide angle lens and use \$70 of my own money to obtain this lens. However I completely understand if I can't receive the entire \$500.

Here I have provided a few clips of my cinematography. These three projects were completed between the Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks of 2017. The first two films were edited entirely by hand with a film splicer and tape, all three were shot on film. Since they have been transferred digitally they have lost some of the brightness that they originally contained so I would ask you to turn the brightness up on your device in order to properly view them.

The Evidence

[A Dog Day Morning](#)

[There's a Bright Golden Haze On The Meadow](#)