

Drew McCarter Miller Arts Scholar Minigrant Proposal

Project Title: Becoming a Self-Sustaining Artist

Nature of Research: I am a fourth year student and am therefore approaching the final act of my time here at UVA. I have been fortunate enough to participate in many artistic collaborations including plays, reading series, short films, and other projects. I have yet to lead my own artistic creation though. As you might recall from when I applied for a minigrant this past spring I spoke of being an actor turned cinematographer and how I was the cinematographer on a short film. While being a cinematographer was a step up for me in the creative process as far as giving me perspective on being on the other side of the camera I was still fulfilling someone else's creative idea. I was happy to be a cinematographer because it gave me the unique opportunity to work with a film director and have some creative input while not having the pressure of the whole project on me, as a director often does. I also learned a vast amount about my camera equipment, some of which was purchased with a past minigrant, but I also realized what equipment I was lacking. I am very happy with the film that I helped create but since then I have done some research on how to get a crisper image. I would also like to write, direct, film, and edit a film in the spring; I'm currently studying theatre in London for the semester. While I was primarily the camera man this past spring I had the unique opportunity of seeing how the editor worked on the film in post; I was extremely envious due to the fact that I felt he had just as much control as me even though I was the person holding the camera. I then got to edit some films of my own later in the semester and I absolutely loved the process. I genuinely love the entire process of filmmaking thus far in my young career. While doing some of my own research I learned that there are ways to eliminate glare and ways to make the image seem more life like through the use of attaching different filters onto the front of the lens. Due to the fact that I will likely be shooting my films on iPhone because of the affordability and surprisingly good quality, these filters would be extremely handy. While the iPhone has the capability of shooting in 4K now it still has some trouble when shooting in extremely well lit environments which causes the motion to look odd and uncomfortable to an audience; these filters would eliminate that problem. I would also like to start editing on my own computer with a higher quality software like Adobe Premiere Pro. I know I have access to Adobe in the student libraries but sometimes after shooting on location it is ideal to be able to edit on the drive home or while away from school. While I am able to edit on the go currently, the software I have access to is not nearly as strong as Adobe.

There are four filters ([Tiffen 58mm Variable Neutral Density Filter](#) , [Hoya 58mm Solas IRND 1.8 Filter \(6 Stop\)](#) , [Hoya 58mm Solas IRND 0.9 Filter \(3 Stop\)](#) , [Hoya 58mm NXT Circular Polarizer Filter](#)) that come out to a combined cost of \$292.66 and Adobe Premiere Pro costs \$233.47. Obviously this comes out to a bit more than the \$500 at \$526.13 but I would be able to dip into my own funds for the extra \$26.13.

Objectives: Obtain the four lenses and a membership to Adobe Premiere Pro in order to allow me to express myself more fully as an independent filmmaker.

Significance: I plan to make a career in the arts as an actor and a filmmaker and having these extremely valuable pieces of equipment and software would make me a much more marketable artist as well as allowing me to make my artistic creations at a much higher quality.

How work will be conducted: If were to receive this minigrant I would begin by filming family gatherings and unplanned events around the home in order to get comfortable with the new equipment. I would then proceed to edit the films together on Adobe. After I felt confident doing that I would start shooting my own stories or helping other people with their films using my equipment.

Schedule for completion: As I stated above I am currently abroad studying theatre and film in London and would likely not be able to film anything with the equipment until January, which I know is not ideal. I am however continuously filming my adventures on my iPhone which I plan to edit together towards the end of my trip and that would be a great opportunity to use Adobe.

Budget:

- Filters cost \$292.66
- Adobe Premiere Pro costs \$233.47
- Minigrant is \$500
- I would spend \$26.13 out of my own pocket

Below I have provided some clips of my cinematography. The first three films were filmed in the spring of 2018 on color film and edited digitally on Adobe Premiere Pro. Films #1 and #3 have sound that I added in post but the rest are silent. The latter three projects were completed between the Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks of 2017. Project #4 and #5 were edited entirely by hand with a film splicer and tape, #4, #5, and #6 were shot on black and white 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.

[Tonic Harmony](#)

[Staples in the Stem, Flowers Floating in the Wind, Let it Burn Away](#)

[Atmospheric 29](#)

[The Evidence](#)

[A Dog Day Morning](#)

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