

A STUDY OF THE BRITISH THEATRE: WEST END TO SHAKESPEARE AND BEYOND

PROJECT SUMMARY

Reflecting on my time studying British theatre in the London and around the United Kingdom, the performances I attended stand out as some of the most influential parts of my research. With the help of the Miller Arts Scholars Mini Grant, I was able to attend 51 performances in two different countries over the course of three months. My original estimate was attending 16 performances during my time abroad, but I was able to more than triple that estimate with the help of the Miller Arts Scholars program and UK student discounts.

While I attended these performances I kept a journal of my thoughts and opinions about the art I witnessed, forcing myself to digest everything I saw in an artistic and constructive way. Allowing myself to be critical of theatre—even the best theatre in the world—gave me a new footing and confidence as a theatre practitioner and director as well as an actor.

Over the course of three months, I attended 12 Shakespeare plays, 13 musicals, and 26 modern plays. I noted many themes in British theatrical practices that differ from American theatrical practices, especially in actor realism and abstract set design. I was able to expand my knowledge of British playwrights, learning how to further understand the writing conventions ruling 2019 British stages. This was especially evident in the work I saw at the National Theatre and smaller off West End houses. I was also able to explore Shakespeare in a new way, attending performances at Shakespeare's Globe, the Royal Shakespeare Company, and LAMDA. The musicals I attended showed me yet another side of British theatrical practices as I experienced English-written musicals such as *Six* and the RSC's *The Boy in the Dress*.

I am extremely thankful to have experienced the sheer amount of art in London and the larger United Kingdom. I have expanded my knowledge of theatre, stretching the limits of what human beings can convey on a stage. I will carry the lessons I learned from this semester into my work as actor and theatre practitioner, and cannot wait to see where it takes me.

BUDGET OUTCOME

(converted to US dollar)

Ticket to <i>Come From Away</i>	\$40.00
Ticket to <i>Everybody's Talking About Jamie</i>	\$40.00
Ticket to <i>Night of the Iguana</i>	\$40.00
Ticket to <i>Waitress</i>	\$40.00
Ticket to <i>A Doll's House</i>	\$40.00
Ticket to <i>The Book of Mormon</i>	\$40.00
Ticket to <i>The Play That Goes Wrong</i>	\$60.00
Tickets to all shows at <i>Shakespeare's Globe</i> (6)	\$30.00
Tickets to <i>Cursed Child Pt. 1-2</i>	\$50.00
Tickets to <i>Lungs</i>	\$80.00
Tickets to <i>Six</i>	\$40.00
TOTAL	\$500.00