

Payton Moledor
Fall 2018 Mini Grant Proposal

EXPLORATION OF THE ACTOR'S SPOKEN VOICE

"To free the voice is to free the person." -Kristen Linklater

PROJECT SUMMARY

There is nothing more precious or valuable to an actor than their voice. Actors are storytellers, and their instruments are their bodies and their voices. Without proper understanding and control of their spoken instrument, how can a performer truly perform?

Nothing has been more transformative to me as an actor than my exposure to voice and speech training of artists like Patsy Rodenburg and Kristen Linklater.

However, when I began studying at the University of Virginia my voice and speech training became less prioritized in my life; with minimal opportunities during my first year and no voice for actors offered by the Department of Drama this semester, I began searching for outside sources of vocal training. Through UVA's production of *WE ARE PUSSY RIOT...OR EVERYTHING IS P.R.*, I met vocal coach Tovah Close.

Tovah Close is a professional voice coach and former voice & speech instructor at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, American Conservatory Theater, and other institutions. Tovah is a member of Actors Equity (AEA) and Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA), and is an incredible resource for performers in the Charlottesville area. More information on her professional background and training can be found on her [website](#).

Tovah is trained in the areas of vocal training I want to improve, and she is the perfect person to lead me through this vocal exploration.

Throughout the past year and with the help of faculty in the UVA Department of Drama, I have been honing my craft as an actor and trying to fill in the gaps in my training. The foundation of all acting work comes from the spoken voice, something I sometimes find myself lacking. Because of unhealthy vocal habits, I find myself trapped in habits in many aspects of my life as a performer.

PROPOSAL

I am applying to the Artist Mini Grant in the amount of \$450 to fund **6 personal training sessions** with Tovah Close to explore the actor’s spoken voice and improve my oral skills as a performer. In these sessions, we will follow Tovah’s curriculum of exploring the voice through “breath-body connection, vocal embodiment, articulation/warm-up skills, verbal action, IPA, text analysis, Shakespeare, and accents.”

These training sessions will take place over the last month and a half of the Fall 2018 semester (roughly October 29–December 7), and will be conducted weekly. Each training session will cost \$75.

As Patsy Rodenburg wrote in her book *The Right to Speak*, “‘The right to speak’ is a right we all have...All that remains is for us to release and employ the right fully.” By exploring my vocal instrument through private training with Tovah, I can once again discover my right to speak.

PROPOSED BUDGET

6 vocal training sessions	\$450
TOTAL	\$450

OUTSIDE RESOURCES

[Tovah Close Website](#)