

Rainah Gregory

4/16/2020

Art Scholar Rising Third-Year Award Application

Faculty Member: Dave Dalton

New York Research Trip

I would like to have the opportunity to travel to New York to conduct research. I am currently in the process of declaring Drama as a major and American Sign Language as a minor. It is a goal of mine to work with both hearing and Deaf actors. During this trip I will conduct research in Deaf artists and their collaborations in theatre. I am also interested in learning more about physical theatre and experimental theatre. During my training at AMDA I took clown classes and workshops which fueled my interest in the many layers of clown and how the physicality can be translated across genres of theatre. An Arts Award would allow me to take advantage of resources in New York, to travel, and conduct research which will help me as I continue to learn and grow as an artist.

After taking Directing with Professor Dalton in Fall 2019, I found myself yearning to learn more about the craft. After having previous training in acting, directing was a new venture. Though I have choreographed in the past and helped produce showcases (collaborating with sound and light designers), working with actors and staging a scene was a whole new world. Going into my third year this fall, it would be amazing to have some new insight and tools to jump into the school year with.

This research trip is an opportunity to further my artistic voice and help me grow as a director and performer. In these indefinite times, I am itching to get out and experience the physicality and connection of theatre again. During quarantine I am virtually directing a play/staged reading and I am excited to learn from this experience. I value being able to learn as much as I can in different environments and this trip will offer different perspectives that will be beneficial.

During this trip I would visit the NYPL of Performing arts at the NYPL, I would go to the film archives and watch two productions staged with ASL, "Spring Awakening" and "Big River." I would also do further research at the Library and look for resources, clippings, and information on staging productions with ASL. It is an aspiration of mine to collaborate and work with Deaf artists and performers. In the future, I would like to stage a production at the University of Virginia where Deaf and hearing actors perform alongside each other to create a

multidimensional, bilingual, and accessible production. In working towards this goal, I would like to propose this trip to New York, in which I can further my knowledge in theatre. This proposal seeks funding toward research to help me in furthering my experience so that I may propose the opportunity to stage/produce a production my fourth year.

In New York I would also go to shows and learn from live theatre. I look forward to seeing these shows with a new perspective, looking more closely at the directing and the imagery throughout. Perhaps part of my outcome presentation could be a response on what I learned from my NYPL research and the live shows I see. If a show is a revival, it would be beneficial to look at the different versions of the production either through watching a past production at the NYPL or finding reviews and articles to compare.

After proposing some work for Lab Series this past semester, I was given the opportunity to work with VA Players to establish dates to work on some pieces I have written in the Fall. I would direct and collaborate on these pieces and work toward either a formal production in a space such as the Helms, or toward a less formal, experimental workshop performance in a space such as B006. I would like to propose a small budget for possible use toward materials, props, costumes and tech for this.

I realize as I write this and begin preparing for the Fall semester, I have many interests. I would like to find ways to combine and experiment with crossovers between my interests. For one of my classes, I am currently researching the ways in which Shakespeare can be translated into ASL. I would like to clarify that ASL is not an art form but a language and that in exploring ASL in drama I would be researching several things. For example, how English written work can be translated into ASL (and vice versa), how to stage actors who use ASL so that the lines can be received by the audience, and ASL poetry/performing arts. I would then conduct research in physical and experimental theatre and clown as well as directing techniques. I believe I can combine my interests to craft striking images to heighten stakes and more.

Due to the current circumstances, I will continue to work with my faculty advisor, Dave Dalton, to find a time to conduct my research trip to New York once it is safe to do so.

Timeline

Time TBD (Possibly Summer 2020) – Research Trip

Fall 2020 – Work with faculty advisor/mentor to contextualize what I’ve learned and ways to further my craft. Explore directing opportunities at UVA. Collaborate on projects, practice what I’ve learned, stage projects. VA Players project.

Spring 2021 – Explore directing opportunities at UVA. Collaborate on projects, practice what I’ve learned, stage projects. Read plays/scenes to stage with ASL, possibly an excerpt for the outcome presentation. Create/write a response on the research conducted during the trip.

Budget

Expense Type	Cost	Description/Justification
<u>Research Trip:</u>		
Amtrak Tickets	\$394	Amtrak Reserved Coach
Hotel	\$1140	5 nights at \$228 per night
Tickets to Research Productions	\$500	Estimating \$100 per show for four evening performances and one matinee
Per Diem	\$342	Meals/Incidentals
<i>Research Trip Subtotal</i>	\$2376	
<u>Production Expenses:</u>		
Costumes	\$200	I plan for a small group of actors to play several roles.
Lights	\$100	
Set and Props	\$200	
Sound	\$50	
Contingency	\$74	
<i>Production Subtotal</i>	\$624	
Award Total Requested	\$3000	

Participation in the Arts

Classes:

Screenwriting - Doug Grissom

Directing I - Dave Dalton

Musical Theatre Performance - Greg Harris

Poetry Writing - Emily Nason

Fiction Writing - Miriam Grossman

Intermediate Fiction Workshop - Thomas Pierce

Productions:

New Works Festival 2020 (Actor)

Watch Me (Director, current project - virtual production/staged reading. Working with UVA student playwright and actors)

Extra Curriculars:

University Vocal Jazz

Other:

Comedy Knight 2020 - Winner of Written Submission

Miller Arts – Accepted Spring 2020