

Veronica Seguin  
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Arts Scholar Third-Year Award Application

### **Breaking into the Business: A Summer of Acting and Networking in NYC**

After auditioning for professional acting opportunities at the Southeastern Theatre Conference this past month, I was accepted into the Stella Adler Studio of Acting Summer Conservatory at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. My goal for this summer is to supplement my UVa dual-degree with a rigorous performance studies curriculum at the Summer Conservatory. I hope to glean practical field experience by working alongside industry professionals while making connections with peers and employers I undoubtedly will collaborate with in future film and television projects. With a long-term goal of ending up in Southern California after graduation to either attain my M.F.A. in acting or pursue film auditions, I believe that this Summer Conservatory is a most efficient use of my summer to better increase professional networking and skills acquisition before larger pursuits in the next few years.

To begin my project narrative, I must explain the existential crisis this semester has wrought on me. In short, my previous goals of double majoring in Drama and Commerce are extinct and have been replaced with a new endeavor to personally curate my own major as a path to film performance. As a self-motivated student maintaining enrollment as an Echols Scholar with three jobs and full extra-curricular involvement, I have reconfigured my course of studies to focus on learning the business side of show business – namely, the film industry – through my recent acceptance into the McIntire School of Commerce's Marketing concentration and growing film industry connections as a student employee at Commerce Career Services. Only 2 courses away from completing the Drama minor, I will use the rest of my UVa career to take intensive performance and film courses not required by the drama major/minor.

With this degree reroute in mind, I am determined to use my remaining undergraduate summers to supplement my performance studies by taking acting and film intensive courses in NYC and L.A. This Summer, I seek funding to attend the Stella Adler Studio of Acting Summer Conservatory. According to the Stella Adler website, this program "is one of the most popular summer programs at the Stella Adler Studio and in the nation. Students from all over the world come to experience this rigorous foundation-building course which approximates a full term of our Professional Conservatory and NYU Tisch School of the Arts program. It is officially approved by the National Association of Schools of Theatre as a summer training program." It is a 10-week acting intensive beginning June 3 and ending August 9 that meets for 22 hours a week. Course of studies involves acting technique, movement, voice & speech, scene study, improvisation, Shakespeare, ensemble building, acting for film & television, and practicum. Initially, I hoped to attend this prestigious studio during the summer between my 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year because I figured that my skill level was not up to par yet. However, this past year of outside acting and vocal training with local Charlottesville artists has helped me vastly improve my craft, and I am proud that I received admittance into the Summer Conservatory from SETC auditions this past month.

Since I have already been accepted to the Summer Conservatory, my only realistic limitations relate solely to financial concerns. As I have detailed in previous mini-grant applications, I am completely financially independent and pay for both college and personal expenses without parental aid. I afford tuition only because of financial aid, constant search for grants/scholarships, and signing student loans without a parent/guardian cosignatory. Since I am used to funding my own expenditures and personal pursuits, I anticipate working at least one job outside of the Summer Conservatory while living in NYC. Working in conjunction with educational fulfillment has become a reality for me and it is not something I intend to stop while (hopefully) living in NYC this summer. The Summer Conservatory entails a 22-hour academic week, leaving time for a serving position at night at the very least. I will notify the MAS committee of my external job involvement should I see a summer in NYC financially feasible.

### **PROJECT TIMELINE**

- ❖ SPRING 2019
  - Accept admittance into the Stella Adler Studio of Acting Summer Conservatory by April 15, 2019 – admittance already granted by audition at the Southeastern Theatre Conference (March 8, 2019)
  - Apply for external grants to include Research, Travel, and Internship grants for supplemental funding.
  - Inform MAS committee of external grants received, if any
  
- ❖ SUMMER 2019
  - Attend Stella Adler Studio of Acting Summer Conservatory from June 3, 2019 – August 9, 2019
  - Enrich my unique degree combination with professional contacts from NYC and L.A. to further my post-graduation plans of moving to Southern California to kick-start acting career
  
- ❖ FALL 2019 - SPRING 2020
  - Use the training from Stella Adler to inform my Drama minor and anticipated involvement in Drama Department shows and UVa short films
  - Take advantage of newly formed professional contacts to continue auditioning for short films, shows, and conferences such as SETC and NETC
  
- ❖ April 2020
  - Present summer experience at the center for Undergraduate Excellence/during Miller Arts Scholars Awards outcome presentations
    - Entails performance of monologues honed at the summer conservatory, display of short film projects from conservatory, or short workshop demonstrating new techniques acquired

## **BUDGET**

### **Stella Adler Studio of Acting - Summer Conservatory**

<https://stellaadler.com/classes/summer/summer-conservatory/>

- ❖ Tuition - \$3,800.00
- ❖ Housing – \$2,125.00
- ❖ Meals - \$500.00
- ❖ Transportation - \$240.00

**Total: \$6,665.00**

I recognize that the total costs exceed the amount available for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Arts Scholars awards. In light of my stringent financial situation and complete lack of parental funding, I am continuing to search for cheaper housing options and even pursuing personal connections for summer housing, despite the risk of long commutes. Even NYU's summer housing program and other student housing options pose lofty expenses for a young woman of my meek financial stature; so, I am requesting \$4,800.00 to cover the cost of tuition and less than half of the cheapest housing option available. In light of my request, I would be grateful for any amount given by Arts Scholars as every financial contribution is a contribution nonetheless towards my supplemental education goal. I am also in the process of applying for other Research, Internship, and Travel Grants to fund my endeavors and will notify the Miller Arts Scholars deliberation committee of any outside funding I receive.

## **ARTS INVOLVEMENT**

Upon arriving at UVa in the Fall of 2017, I immediately joined the organization that has rapidly become my heart and home: First Year Players. It was through FYP that I was afforded arts connections and opportunities across grounds that I otherwise would never have indulged in. FYP gave me the platform to hit the ground running with two lead roles in two semesters: Fastrada in *Pippin* (Fall 2017) and Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes* (Spring 2018).

In addition to FYP during my first year, I became heavily involved with Student Council's Arts Committee, LabShorts, and Filmmakers Society. As a committee member, I help market and plan such events as the Student Arts Networking Night, Student Arts Fund, and Student Arts Spotlight. For LabShorts and Filmmakers Society, I have been opportune to star in 4 student films, including both short and feature films. I am currently working on 2 more student films with Filmmakers society and I look forward to future opportunities with the aspiring directors and producers with whom I have already worked with.

Last semester (Fall 2018), I portrayed Mercutio in Kristen Barrett's interracial rendition of *Romeo + Juliet* with Shakespeare on the Lawn. It was during this time that I also prepared for the Southeastern Theatre Conference in October 2018 as an actor/singer. I passed SETC screenings and went onto professional auditions this past month as one of three performers representing UVa. It was through SETC that I was offered and accepted into the Stella Adler Studio of Acting Summer Conservatory.

This semester, I am playing Logainne Schwarz and Grubenierre (AKA Schwarzzy) in the Drama Department's production of *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. This is my first department show, and I am eager to continue my semesterly involvement in drama productions as I can infuse techniques from Stella Adler into my future roles.

I joined Arts Scholars last May (2018) and have since maintained organization activism by taking CASS 1010 and 1011. I am currently trying to run for the positions of either Marketing Chair or Social Chair on MAS's Executive Board and hope to apply the duality of my McIntire and Drama experience to better the Arts Scholars program as a whole.

## **TALENT PORTFOLIO**

Short/Feature Film Demo Reel: <https://youtu.be/YjPiIWh8ROc>

Spring 2019 Vocal and Physical Self-Improvement:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bT86g4jas&feature=youtu.be>

Musical Theatre Reel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aeq24jYPgI>