

Maille-Rose Smith

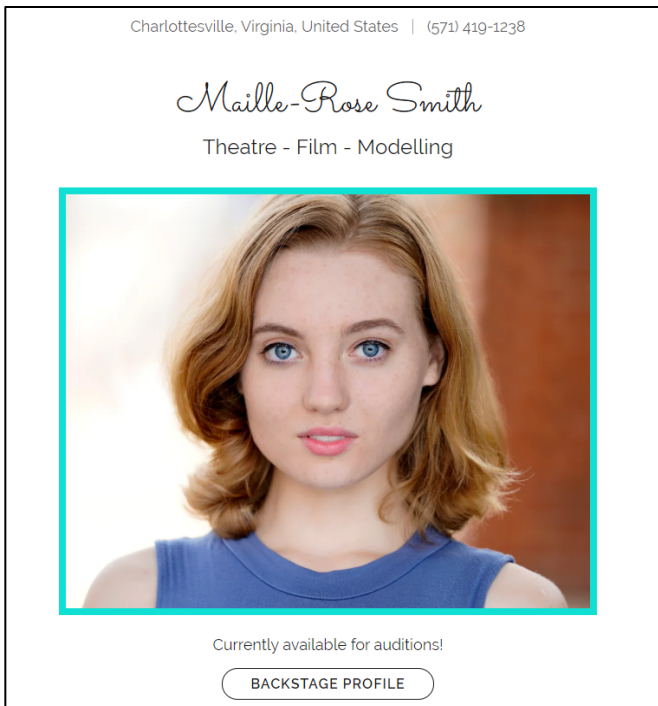
January 3, 2020

“Dramatic Development and Skill Strengthening” Minigrant Proposal Outcome

I am so grateful to the Miller family for their generosity in supporting the Miller Arts Scholars program, and would like to thank them for their wonderful contributions to the Miller Arts Scholars fund.

Through this fall minigrant, I was able to purchase the domain name maile-rosesmith.com, and create and maintain my website. I added production photos, headshots, and modelling stills, as well as links to my Backstage profile, the podcasts I have participated in, my reel, and articles and reviews associated with my performances. Ultimately, I created a “one-stop shop” for my work with links and photos galore, that can be edited at any time to show current and future projects. Not only is this website a great way to show potential casting directors all my work in one place, but it is also a fantastic resource to include on applications for conservatories and acting jobs, adding a level of professionalism and legitimacy to those applications.

Some snippets from my website:



Resume and Demos

[My Reel](#)

Podcast links:

[Erasmus Dagger](#)

 WTJU 91.1 FM's [The Perfectly Circular Rock](#)

Articles, Reviews, and Websites:

 Deadwood Dick: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2016/nov/17/vienna-true-adventure/>

 Guys and Dolls, Jr.: <https://dcmetrotheaterarts.com/2013/04/29/guys-and-dolls-jr-at-thoreau-middle-school-by-eric-denver/>

 Erasmus Dagger: <https://www.c-ville.com/radio-refresh-erasmus-dagger-drama-podcastrevives-on-air-storytelling/>

 Music Library Series: <http://arts.virginia.edu/making-noise-brings-student-authored-plays-to-life/>

 Shakespeare on the Lawn: <http://www.shakespeareonthelawn.org/executive-staff/>

 Julius Caesar: <http://arts.virginia.edu/shakespeare-on-the-lawn-returns-to-drama-with-julius-caesar/>

 Macbeth: <https://news.virginia.edu/content/something-wicked-good-way-comes>

 VHSL One-Acts: <https://warhawnnews.com/1116/news/drama-department-competes-in-vhsl-one-acts/>

 Virginia Players: <https://virginiaplayers.org/about/>

ActorResume (pdf)

Download

This minigrant also allowed me to purchase the scriptwriting service “Final Draft 11 Educational,” which has been very helpful in writing and submitting short plays for my Playwriting 1 class with Doug Grissom, as well as for submitting plays to festivals, and I anticipate it being of great use in Advanced Playwriting, which I am taking this spring semester (Spring 2020). I will then use Final Draft to write longer, full-length plays.

I further used this minigrant to purchase a marvelous year-long subscription to Masterclass. I have found Masterclass courses on acting very useful, especially for film acting. Helen Mirren’s “Acting on a Film Set,” in which she gives advice on how to approach a film set and breaks down moments in her performance of *The Queen*, was absolutely fascinating and enlightening as someone with no formal film training. I learned that an actor can be proactive onset not only by arriving early and walking around the location, but also by speaking to the camera operators and seeing what each shot will look like, and being cognizant of what the “before” and “after” moments are for each scene. What happens after this shot? Does my character cry in the next shot? How do I express myself in this scene to lend itself naturally to the next moment? I did not realize how curious an actor is allowed to be onset! I always have entered filming locations afraid to ask questions, and I am now kicking myself for not asking what the shots looked like (even something as simple as, “Can you see my hands in this shot?”). These Masterclass lessons have prepared me to approach future onscreen roles with greater confidence. I am also excited to dive more into screenwriting lessons on Masterclass; I have begun Aaron Sorkin’s series discussing how to write captivating dialogue. So far, I have been intrigued by his advice to not necessarily write like real people, and to be physical when writing – to get up out of your chair!

I am so grateful for this minigrant, which has allowed me to better promote myself as an actor, write plays with award-winning software, and learn film acting techniques from experts in the field.

Budget breakdown:

GoDaddy domain (first year): \$0.99

GoDaddy domain (renewal after the first year): \$17.99

WordPress hosting (2 years): \$180.12

Masterclass subscription (1 year): \$180.00

Final Draft 11 Educational (lifetime): \$129.99

Total: \$509.09

(I knew that expenses would be over \$500, and paid the additional \$9.09.)