

Maille-Rose Smith
4 October 2019
Art Scholar Minigrant Application (Fall 2019)

Dramatic Development and Skill Strengthening

I. Proposal

In seeking professional acting opportunities, I often use Backstage to find and apply for film and television roles. By purchasing the domain name **maille-rosesmith.com**, I can enhance my applications for roles in film, TV, and theatre; steer casting directors toward my full resume and videos of my monologues and demo reels; and more effectively promote myself as an artist.

I have also found it beneficial to include links in social media bios, as I connect with fellow actors as well as directors, designers, theatre technicians, and film crew members. A website is an excellent way for me to connect with professionals in the theatre and film world, offering a professional, polished platform to promote my acting goals. The domain name **maille-rosesmith.com** can be purchased from GoDaddy for only \$0.99 for the first year, and then \$17.99 for each additional year. Mini-grant funding would pay for the first two years of the domain name. WordPress is a highly rated, peer-recommended website hosting platform through which I can design, customize, edit, and update my portfolio website; mini-grant funding would pay for the first two years of WordPress hosting.

I began film acting at UVA and have no formal training in this realm. I have been fortunate and gained experience by acting in professional and student films (*Sledgehammer*, dir. John Rizzo. *Unsaid*, dir. Brian Boenau. Labshorts: *Rausch*, dir. Yuchen Xie; *Just Desserts*, dir. Shaelea Carroll. Overcranked: *The Art of Fugue*, dir. Asher Caplan. *Lady Macbeth*, dir. Amelia Dephos). I have also done some television and extra work. I have found these experiences creatively fulfilling and very helpful for my learning, and I have gotten wonderful feedback and “pro tips” from directors and other actors. However, I still enter the set feeling rather like an imposter, as I am not truly trained in film acting. With a year-long, all-access Masterclass subscription, I can take courses on film acting from award-winning actors; these classes include “Performing on Camera,” (taught by Natalie Portman) and “Film Acting Technique” (a three-part lesson taught by Helen Mirren), among others. Masterclass also offers a wealth of theatre resources, such as Shakespeare acting lessons, directing classes, and scriptwriting classes (including courses taught by David Mamet and Aaron Sorkin!).

This brings me to my next proposed item for the mini-grant: a subscription to Final Draft’s scriptwriting program. I am currently in Doug Grissom’s Playwriting 1 class and plan to submit a short play to the Virginia Playwright’s Fall Showcase as well as to the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, and future playwriting competitions. Playwriting is relatively new to me, and I want to grow as a writer and relate what I learn in terms of plot structure and devices, conflict, tactic changes, comedic timing, stage directions, and more to my acting and

directing style. One of my main goals this semester has been and is to experiment with more dramatic media than I have in my past two years at UVA. As a Drama and English major, I have mainly limited myself to acting, reading, and essay writing, and I want to bridge the gaps for myself in these naturally interwoven fields. I love acting and plan to pursue it professionally, but that does not mean that I cannot grow and express myself through directing, playwriting, and screenwriting; in fact, I am learning this semester how much assistant directing can improve my own acting, and how much playwriting affects how I analyze characters, their dialogue, and their actions! Doug Grissom has recommended “Final Draft 11 Educational” as a playwriting and screenwriting program; it is a Technical Emmy Winner, it offers plot creation features such as brainstorming, beat boards, and story maps, and a license costs \$129.99 for students. This is a one-time license fee, so I would not have to pay for a monthly subscription. Purchasing “Final Draft 11 Educational” would assist me in my journey to pursue playwriting outside of class, a creative adventure I should have begun long before now.

Ultimately, taking Masterclass courses for acting, playwriting, and directing, and using Final Draft for playwriting and scriptwriting will strengthen my dramatic skillset. An actor website will allow me to expand creative connections, apply for roles, and increase my visibility as an artist. This combination of dramatic enrichment activities will set me up for theatre and film opportunities now, as well as in winter and summer.

II. Timeline

October 9: Submit a short play to the Virginia Playwrights showcase. Purchase Final Draft license.

October 20: Set up actor website maile-rosesmith.com; include videos and reel footage, as well as my actor resume and my personal statement. Link this website to my social media platforms and my Backstage profile.

October 30: Submit a ten-minute or one-act play to the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

November 1: Purchase Masterclass subscription and begin taking courses.

October, November, December: Audition for roles that coincide with winter break and weekends when travel is feasible.

III. Budget Breakdown

Resource	Unit Price	Time Period	Total
GoDaddy domain:	\$0.99	1 year	\$0.99

maille-rosesmith.com			
GoDaddy domain renewal (after the first year)	\$17.99/year	1 year	\$17.99
WordPress hosting	\$8.00/month	2 years (24 months)	\$192.00
Masterclass subscription	\$180/year	1 year	\$180.00
Final Draft scriptwriting subscription	\$129.99	Full license (no time limit)	\$129.99
GRAND TOTAL			\$520.97*

*I understand that the mini-grant maximum is \$500, and I would pay the additional \$20.97.