

Isabella Ullmann
March 28, 2020
Arts Scholar Third-Year Award Application

A Summer Internship in the Arts **OR** Creative Online Courses

As a rising fourth year, I am planning to kickstart my career this summer by partaking in a full-time internship at Braven Films that is tentatively in person starting July 1st. Braven Films is an independent film production company that focuses on creating feature films from diverse backgrounds. The company speaks to my mission as an artist due to its emphasis on driving positive social change. They have produced a variety of highly acclaimed films such as *Disobedience* (2017) which focuses on a gay female couple struggling to be accepted in a strict Orthodox community.

Although my discipline in Miller Arts Scholars is drama, I am interested in discovering more about digital storytelling, specifically through narrative film. This internship would be a transformative experience, as I would be fully immersed in a professional film company through evaluating incoming scripts. This will allow me to gain hands-on tools in the industry such as estimating costs per film production, evaluating the strength of characters, and deciding whether or not the story is relevant in modern society. Additionally, it will be a great networking opportunity to meet professionals in the industry and understand the culture of a film company in New York City before graduation.

Due to COVID-19, Braven Films has offered me this internship as a remote position starting on May 15th, and plan to have me work in their NYC office by July 1st. After speaking with the head of development, he said it seems likely that this date (at the latest) will be a safe time for me to come into the office. While this date is tentative, this is my current plan and I hope that MAS can support me in this endeavor. Since the internship is unpaid, I am requesting

funding for living costs for the months of July/August with my artist grant. I have outlined the costs below.

However, if this internship continues to be remote due to the uncertainty of when social distancing will end, I have outlined a separate plan that I hope to use my artist grant for. During quarantine, my main goal is to produce as much creative content as possible. This means writing new plays and TV pilots that I can submit to grad schools and job applications next spring. However, since I am in a remote environment, I am lacking critical feedback to my work as well as a structured environment that will keep me accountable for producing content. Therefore, I am requesting online classes at Gotham's Writers, "...where writers develop their craft and come together in the spirit of discovery and fellowship," according to their website. Gotham Writers was recommended to me by a mentor of mine, writer/director Roger Kumble, who developed some of his best work from their programs.

The first class I am requesting is TV Writing level 1, which spans 10 weeks across the summer. The course consists of lectures, writing exercises, and workshopping student projects throughout the 10 weeks. I would be thrilled to take this course to learn the basics of TV writing since it is not a course offered at UVA, and it is a potential career path I hope to embark on. Additionally, I am requesting a private Playwriting level II class from Gotham Writers, which also spans 10 weeks. This program will be extremely helpful because it focuses on editing and sharpening two short plays or one full-length play. It is specifically designed to work on an existing project, and I am confident it will provide the feedback and structure I desperately need during quarantine. Although they're both ten weeks, my participation in each course will not overlap with the other, as I am planning on taking them from late April-September.

Lastly, I am requesting a year subscription to Masterclass, an online site that hosts professionals from a variety of fields give virtual classes on their professions. Jodie Foster, for example, is a filmmaker I would love to learn from in this program. Especially since everything is online now, Masterclass seems like the best scenario for educating myself artistically while in quarantine. This membership will allow me to have access to unlimited courses the entire year, and I plan on keeping a journal to take notes on each lecture after viewing. Although these remote creative opportunities do not complete \$3,000, they come relatively close and I would be thrilled to utilize them to really make the most out of my creative experience in quarantine.

Braven Film Internship Budget

Expense		Notes
Housing in NYC	\$1300 per month, 2 months roughly= \$2,600	I am basing this off of a website that helps students find housing for cheap prices. I chose the triple option and am planning on having two roommates. https://www.studenthousing.org/and/summer
Meals	\$100 per week, 8 weeks roughly, \$800	I am basing this off of grocery expenses weekly in Charlottesville. It will of course be higher in NYC, however this is a baseline.

Total= \$3,400, I am requesting \$3,000 from MAS. The rest I will fund from personal savings.

Project Timeline

May/June 2020

- Write remote script coverage for Braven Films. This will entail evaluating new incoming material and giving reports to the head of development on whether or not they are right for the company.

July-August 2020

- The current plan is to live in NYC July-August given COVID-19 risks.
- My internship will consist of administrative tasks in the office, research, and script coverage.
- I will journal three times a week regarding my experiences while making connections in the industry.

Remote Creative Learning Budget

Expense		Notes
TV Writing Level I, 10-Week Workshop, Gotham Writers	Zoom Tuition: \$409	https://www.writingclasses.com/classes/description/tv-writing?location_type=zoom# 102 Program notes: "This course gives you a firm grounding in the basics of TV writing craft and gets you writing a TV script for an existing show."
Playwriting Level II, One-on-One tuition, Gotham Writers	Zoom Tuition: \$1745	https://www.writingclasses.com/classes/description/playwriting Program notes: "This course helps you sharpen your skills at playwriting craft and work toward completion of one or two short plays or a full-length play. Writers often repeat Playwriting II to continue their projects."
Masterclass, year pass	\$180	https://www.masterclass.com/ "Watch hundreds of lessons from the best as they share their stories, skills, shortcuts, failures, and successes."

Total: 2,334

Project Timeline

Late April-June 2020

- Watch two master classes per week, keep a journal entry on each one.
- Complete 10-week playwriting course online

July- September 2020

- Watch two master classes per week, keep a journal entry on each one.

- Complete 10-week TV writing course

Evidence of Participation in the Arts Within the University

I am pursuing a distinguished interdisciplinary major focusing on arts administration, media studies, and drama. My main contributions in the arts revolve around my work in playwriting, as my second year I co-founded Virginia Playwrights, a group dedicated to producing short plays every semester. My role in this organization mainly deals with producing and marketing the productions, and we typically have a strong turnout in the Helms Theater every semester. At the beginning of my third year I became more involved in filmmaking, and was accepted to *Overcranked*, a short film class that focuses on writing in the fall and producing in the spring. Further, this past February/March my play, "The Art of Being an Ok Person," was performed in the drama department's New Works Festival. The festival had six performances in the Helms Theater, all of which were sold out.

Within the Arts Scholars Program

In fall 2019, I took the CAS 1010 seminar. Before moving to online classes, I was working with Maillie-Rose, to make MAS more known on campus through digital marketing techniques. This semester I unfortunately had a mandatory class conflict at the same time as the discussion, but am excited to take discussion again in the fall and help contribute to the program further.