

A Summer of American Theater

I am requesting a total of \$2,662 to fund tickets to theater performances in the Washington DC and New York City area, as well as offset the costs of traveling and staying in New York City.

Growing up overseas, I had the incredible privilege of being able to experience theater from all around the world. Moving back to the US during the COVID-19 pandemic initially limited how much live theater I was able to experience, but since coming to UVA I have immersed myself back in the world of acting. In order to continue my artistic development and orient myself within the world of American theater, I am requesting this Arts Award in order to fund a summer spent experiencing exceptional live theater. As I am completing a summer internship in a non-arts related field, I feel as though it is important that I remain engaged as an artist throughout the summer.

My goal is simple: to dive headfirst into the diverse landscape of American theater in both DC and New York, from massive Broadway theaters to smaller, more unconventional venues. I aim to experience a wide range of performances and styles, and use these to inform my own development as a theater practitioner. Furthermore, I hope to gain insights into the unique flavors and influences that shape American theater, while building connections with fellow artists and industry professionals along the way.

In order to make my learning tangible, I am planning on keeping a journal, where I will keep detailed reflections on each play that I will see. Within this journal, I will pay special attention to the action and production design of the shows, as well as searching for elements that reflect where the performance sits within the landscape of American theater. I will use this journal to write a final reflection for my Arts Award presentation next spring semester, as well as to draw inspiration for future theater projects that I will undertake at UVA. Specifically, I have begun to discuss a possible immersive black box performance of Chekhov's *Three Sisters* next semester, and would love to find some inspiration this summer.

While I am enthusiastic about this endeavor, I am cognizant of some potential challenges that may arise. For example, for many in-demand shows in New York, especially on Broadway, I anticipate that tickets may be expensive and hard to get. In order to mitigate this, I will spend time this semester carefully planning ahead of the shows that I want to go see and buying my tickets ahead of time. Furthermore, travel delays between DC and New York are highly probable, and could result in me missing performances. To combat this, I am planning on using the AMTRAK train to get to and

from New York. This will ensure that I am not subject to notorious New York and DC traffic, and since AMTRAK owns the northeast corridor on which their trains run between Penn and Union stations, I will also be minimizing the risk of train delays.

I will not need any specialty equipment for this endeavor. My faculty mentor, Dave Dalton, has extensive experience as a theater professional working in New York City, and I will ask for his guidance on which shows I should watch in order to maximize my learning throughout this summer. His expertise will be a valuable resource in helping me to use my funds efficiently and effectively. As for my outcome presentation, I intend on compiling insights from my reflections. I will present on the incredible diversity that exists within American theater, and what I learned from watching so many shows—both in my capacity as a student, but also as a performer. Furthermore, I will reflect on how my experience will inform future artistic projects that I will undertake at UVA, and use the opportunity to invite collaboration from fellow Arts Scholars across a range of disciplines.

Budget Proposal for DC Area shows

Item	Cost	More Information
Tickets	650	Average of \$50 per ticket (taken through looking at average ticket prices of leading DC area theaters, specifically Signature Theater, Arena Stage, Folger Theater, Ford's Theater) x 13 (weeks in the summer, assuming average of 1 show per week)
Total	650	

Budget Proposal for NYC Area shows

Item	Cost	More Information
Tickets	600	Average ticket cost of \$150 (non-lottery for Broadway, factoring in lower cost of off-Broadway) for 4 shows over 2 weekends
Lodging	1000	FY 2024 Per Diem Rates for New York GSA 2 weekends spent in NYC, 2 nights per weekend at rate of \$250/night.
Train	150	\$75 roundtrip AMTRAK ticket between NYC and DC, for two weekends
Transportation	12	\$3 for subway to and from train station
Meals	300	GSA Per Diem Rate Assuming around \$79/day on a full day of meals.
Total	2,062	
Total with DC	2,662	

Timeline

SPRING

- Research DC and NYC theaters and identify which shows I want to see
- Create a calendar with show dates to determine when travel to NYC will be necessary
- Plan bookings for travel and hotels in NYC

SUMMER

- Attend shows
- Keep notebook with reflections for each show, with a heavy focus on acting and production design

FALL

- Write a summary report of my experiences using reflections
- Use reflections to inform future theater projects

NEXT SPRING

- Prepare for Arts Awards presentation, synthesize learning