

Karen Zipor

March 24, 2020

Art Scholar Third-Year Award Application

NYC or LA: A Summer of Industry Experience & Learning

This coming summer, I plan to either hone my craft as an actor or get real-world experience in the film industry. I hope to improve my acting technique at the Stella Adler Studio in NYC, or work at a film company in L.A., assigned through the Emmys Television Academy Foundation. I recently got accepted to the Stella Adler Summer Conservatory program after auditioning for them at the New England Theater Conference. I am still waiting to hear back from the Television Academy, but this past week I learned I am a finalist and am moving on to the next round of selections. I will get their final decision in 2-3 weeks after an interview round. Both opportunities are extremely different, but they are both very beneficial to advancing my performing career in the world of TV and film.

At Stella Adler, I will get intensive conservatory training not offered at the University of Virginia. Their summer conservatory is 6 weeks, 32 hours per week (running from July 6th – August 14, 2020), that approximates a full term of their Professional Conservatory and NYU Tisch School of the Arts program. I will become a tremendously well-rounded actor, as their curriculum includes classes in Acting Technique, Voice & Speech, Scene Study, Movement, Shakespeare, Improvisation, Ensemble Building, and On-Camera Acting. Many of these classes, such as Shakespeare and On-Camera Acting, I have great interest in and want to improve in, but they are not offered as stand-alone classes for undergraduates at UVA. It is a wonderful all-around course that will give me a solid acting foundation for future auditions and lead me to find future work – both onstage or on film.

The Television Academy Foundation Internship Program is another huge once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, as the selections are very competitive and they search for prospective interns on a nationwide level. The Television Academy Foundation provides 50 internships in over 20 different disciplines to college students nationwide. I'm specifically a finalist for the discipline of Virtual and Augmented Reality, thanks to my experience working with Drama Department Professor, Mona Kasra, on her MEAD-funded research project on Virtual Reality.

This internship program gives undergraduate students in-depth exposure to professional television production during an 8-week, paid summer period in Los Angeles. Past hosts included ABC Studios, CBS, HBO, Disney, Nickelodeon, FOX TV Studios, Warner Bros., Hulu, and many others. With a TV studio, I will participate in the evaluation of program ideas, development of literary/experience materials, selection of developers and creatives, and oversight of content development. And because I'm pursuing a double major in Drama and Computer Science, this program will contribute to both my learning of production, research, writing, and knowledge of VR technology.

The biggest problems that may arise are program cancellations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Stella Adler recently delayed the start date of their program by a month to July 6th in an effort to follow social distancing measures. It is an uncertainty if the film companies will still want to accept interns at this time. However, in my latest email from the Television Academy Foundation, they said they plan to move forward with the summer Internship Program, hopeful that things will be up and running by summer. I've discussed with my faculty advisor, Dave Dalton, and in the worst scenario that both programs are cancelled, I will submit an amended proposal, changing the timeline. If that does come to pass, I will work with Dave, Michael, and the Advisory Committee on how to proceed.

Despite the global situation, I am still hopeful that this summer will be an experience of growth and opportunity. I am fortunate enough to have already been accepted into Stella Adler's program, which will greatly inform my work and future projects in the Drama Department. This is an incredible opportunity to strengthen my performance skills in conservatory classes, as I may not have room in my schedule for performing classes next year due to my need to fulfill more Computer Science Major requirements. It will be invaluable for my career to make connections with Stella Adler faculty, who are well-known professionals in their craft in NYC, or higher-up employees at a television studio in LA. Both the people I meet and the experience I gain will put me in a better position to enter the performing industry after college, utilize my skills as both a Drama and Computer Science major, and better myself as both a human and artist.

TIMELINE

- Spring
 - Complete the finalist interview for the Television Academy Foundation Internship Program (Due March 27)
 - Learn if I've been assigned to a film company in LA, and inform the Arts Scholars if I've been denied or accepted (2-3 weeks after)
 - Accept the program at Stella Adler or the TV Academy Foundation Internship (shortly after receiving a phone call)
 - Inform the Arts Scholars if there have been any change in programs at Stella Adler or the Television Academy Foundation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Summer
 - Attend the Stella Adler Studio in NYC or the TV Internship program in LA (Both programs run approximately July through August)
- Fall
 - Implement knowledge from summer experience into classes, films, and Drama Department shows – either from performing in them myself or in the research, writing and tech side of productions
- April 2021
 - Present my summer experience to all the Miller Arts Scholars. I will showcase videos and pictures of performances and/or projects I worked on.

BUDGET

Stella Adler Studio

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

- Tuition - \$3300
- Housing - \$2800
- Meals - \$1000
- Public Transportation/Miscellaneous - \$300

Total Cost: \$7,900

Television Academy Foundation Internship Program

<https://www.emmys.com/foundation/internships>

- Housing - \$4200
- Meals - \$1000
- Airline Costs - \$300
- Car Rental / Ride-share Apps - \$2900
- Miscellaneous - \$300

Total Cost: \$8,700

- Internship salary - \$4,800

Net Cost: \$3,900

Both of these programs are expensive, and will cost more than what's usually allotted for the 3rd Year Awards, but I am requesting \$3,300 to completely cover the cost of tuition at Stella Adler. This same amount will also cover most of the Television Internship program, as interns are responsible for their own housing, living costs, in-town transportation, and airline travel, but are paid \$4,800 in total for their work over the summer (with applicable payroll deductions still to be taken). But I'd be grateful for any amount of financial support and help given from the Arts Scholars, as these are both fantastic opportunities that'd immensely benefit my career path after college. I will also try to apply to other research and internship grants at UVA, and will notify the Miller Arts Scholars of any other funding I receive.

ARTS INVOLVEMENT

I have been deeply involved with the arts community at UVA. During my first year, I immediately engaged with the Drama Department, acting in Play-in-a-Day and taking Acting 1. Then, I joined the First Year Players and performed as two leading roles: Florinda in *Into the Woods* and Edwin Drood in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. In the Spring, I took Video Design.

Last semester, I portrayed Tilly in my first Drama Department show, *She Kills Monsters*. I learned so much in such a short amount of time, from performance techniques in the rehearsal room, to stage combat and sword-fighting. At the same time, I also was Mona's assistant designer for the video projections, attending all the design meetings and helping to find and create media for the show. I took Directing 1, Lighting Design, and voice lessons with Pamela Beasley in the Music Department. In addition, I was a graphic design and administration intern at Live Arts Theater.

This semester, I acted in Izzy Ullmann's play in *The New Works Festival*, and was choreographer for the First Year Player's production of *Kiss Me, Kate*. I am also taking Musical Theater with Greg Harris, and am still in Pamela Beasley's voice studio. I am currently working on Mona's MEAD project, a university-funded research project dealing with Virtual Reality.

Finally, I took leadership positions in many UVA organizations. After being on FYP's publicity committee for over a year, I became their Publicity Chair this semester. I am also currently the Virginia Player's Artistic Director and PR Chair.

TALENT PORTFOLIO

Performing Arts Portfolio from my Miller Arts Application:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ww1Wf3TfuNE&feature=youtu.be>

Description of Clips Included:

"The Writing on the Wall" from *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*; First Year Players; April 2019

"Show Me" from *My Fair Lady*; Voice Studio Recital; December 2019

"Unexpected Song" from *Song & Dance*; Voice Studio Recital; December 2019

Video Design Final Project - Projection Tracking on a Dancer; May 2019

Actor & Video Design Assistant for *She Kills Monsters*; UVA Drama; November 2019