

I am humbly requesting \$500 to assist in the purchasing of tools that will allow me to further grow and hone my skills as a modern lighting designer.

This past summer, between my work as an electrician for the Virginia Theatre Festival, I embarked on a month-long exercise in practicing scenic and lighting design while concurrently going through the motions of completing both designs in the context of a hypothetical staged production. Using free modeling software, I created a mock scenic design for a play I was familiar with and imported it into the free, student version of a professional lighting visualization software called Capture. Within Capture, I can manipulate the geometry of scenic elements, soft goods, pipes, and most importantly fixtures to virtually light my set within a virtual model of the Culbreth stage and create a hypothetical “design.” Though limited, the student version allows you to export draftings, such as a paper plot and instrument datasheet, though since the student version limits the number of fixtures available, this paperwork was not accurate to my intended design. I was able to complete most of the documentation and formal paperwork that a real lighting design would have minus a handful of limitations due to the demo nature of the software, all of which I’ve posted to my portfolio willconraddesign.com/the-deal.

With the full version of Capture, I will have access to a full and complete library of fixtures, allowing me to accurately mock up and draft concept and/or preliminary lighting designs, as I intend to use Capture alongside my independent study under Professor Kennedy as a research and learning aid. Part of our study will include a theoretical design, like what I did over the summer, and I will use Capture to create a final visualization. I plan to use Capture to create more virtual, hypothetical designs and assist my design process for my upcoming projects this semester, including Lab Series. I also intend to use Capture in my process for designing the upcoming department mainstage show, *Continuity*, and potentially pre-visualizing designs for dance concerts.

In conjunction with Capture, the lighting visualization software, I am also requesting funding to purchase two symbol packs for Vectorworks, an industry standard software used by lighting professionals to create design paperwork. The Soft Symbols pack is a widely used collection of symbols used by Broadway designers that provides icons for common equipment not already included in Vectorworks. The Savvy Section pack has detailed unit symbols for creating section views, which look at a plot from the side to describe unit orientation and elevation. As I develop my own unique drafting style, I’m excited to incorporate these professional tools into my workflow and make it my own.

These tools are important to acquire early on as I develop design skills and strategies and take on more design projects. Mastering the tools of the trade will allow me to work more efficiently and effectively.

Item	Item Description	Purchase Link	Cost
1	Capture 2024 Solo Edition	Link	409.34
2	Soft Symbols	Link	60.00
3	Savvy Section Symbols	Link	11.15
Total			480.49
Funding requested			480.49

Timeline:

March

- Incorporate **Soft Symbols + Savvy Section** into drafting workflow
- Begin work with Lee on conceptual design project / collaborate on design process for Fall Mainstage

April

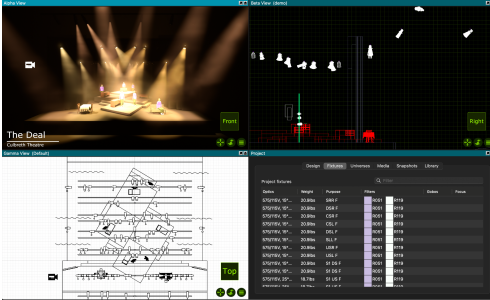
- Use **Capture** to previs and design cues for Lab Series
- Use **Soft Symbols + Savvy Section** in drafting process for Fall mainstage production
- Continue conceptual work

May

- Finish pre-production work on Fall Mainstage

Deliverables: Paperwork and renders from design projects over the Spring and Fall semester, all published to online portfolio (www.willconraddesign.com)

Portfolio Excerpts



SCENE BREAKDOWN

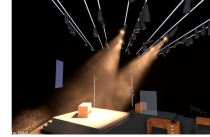
Preshow – Backlight set, maybe just windows

Opening moment – Alex enters, sits, and begins the recording. At first, we hear the grainy recording static to life, morphing into faint background restaurant chatter and infrequent clinking of glasses. It fades from pre-recorded to real life, giving way to...

1.1 – Lights up on the table, Jimmy and Peter talk

The Freeze: a beat before the pause, lights back up on the tape recorder until at its peak, Alex CLICKS off the machine. Lights shift over the table as we hear the scene briefly rewind. Actors play the scene backwards silently. Their voices are heard in reverse faintly over restaurant noises, sound coming from the machine now rather than from the action.

The Unfreeze: lights down on Alex's office as lights return to normal over the restaurant. Sound returns to sounding live.



Creating even top light that could shutter to the square platforms was tricky, especially on upstage platforms. Trying to achieve even coverage of squares, while also keeping unwanted light off of other platforms, minimizing overall spill, and making sure the light angle was flattering enough for a non light was very challenging.

Left: The US platform front light system

Once I was happy with how my systems, booms, and specials were looking, I quantified light measurements so that lights were positioned at nice rounded measurements, usually multiples of 3" on the plot. Overlaps necessitated reorganization of lights and refoocusing, which became a self-sustaining cycle of imperfection until I exhausted myself.

Right: Top view of the plot

