

Susana Kuhn  
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Art Scholar Mini Grant Application (Fall 2022)

### **Preparing for a Career in the Arts**

As I finish out my time at the University of Virginia I have been constantly prompted with the question of what I want to do after graduation. My answer to this question has changed a bit throughout my time at the University but one thing remains consistent, I want to keep theater as a part of my life in some capacity.

I hope to use this fall mini grant as a means of preparing myself for a career in the arts and to start and tap into the resources available in the arts field through opportunities in acting and playwriting. This past summer, I worked to grow my skills as a performer as well as a writer through the Gaiety Acting Intensive in Dublin Ireland. These are skills in which I have continued to develop through Playwriting with Doug Grissom as well as Acting 2 with Dave Dalton. Although these tend to be difficult industries to tap into professionally, I plan to prepare for my first steps in this process by simply gaining access to the resources provided through online subscriptions to services such as Backstage and Play Submission Helper. These resources will help me to see what opportunities are available for a young artist such as myself as I begin to make the necessary connections and continue to gain the entry level experience necessary to make it within these industries.

The expected cost of each of these individual subscriptions will include a \$10/month subscription fee that I plan to purchase for the first year of use at a cost of \$120 dollars to be used beginning in December. This will give me an appropriate amount of time to continue working on scripts and take full advantage of my playwriting class to grow and refurbish these works before submitting to various competitions. The backstage account will cost approximately \$8.33/ month for a one year subscription coming out to a total of about \$100. This will allow me to look for audition opportunities in various cities, including my hometown in New York City which might otherwise be overwhelming and intimidating for an up and coming actress such as myself. I plan to supplement these experiences by purchasing new play scripts and monologue books to read throughout my winter break. As I have learned from my playwriting class, an essential part of learning to write is by reading the works of others and getting ideas of different narrative structures.

Additionally, I want to use the remaining money to purchase a ticket to see A Strange Loop on Broadway over Winter Break. This is a show that we discussed a lot during my summer abroad as many of the other students in my program had seen and loved it. A lot of the discussions we had convinced me that this is the kind of project that I want to get involved in and

what I think that theater today should continue to look like and so having the opportunity to see it live would be extremely beneficial for me as a developing playwright, actress, and dramaturg.

Finally, I plan to attend the Dramaturgy intensive class at the Kennedy Center in June. This will be an immersive introductory experience in dramaturgy which will once again help equip me with the skills necessary to apply for a job in the arts. This will allow me to take my learned skill sets from my summer abroad as well as throughout my time at UVA outside of the University context and get the ball rolling on continuing to integrate theater into my life as I move beyond an academic context.

### **Budget:**

Expense	Description	Amount
Play Submission Helper Subscription	1 year subscription	\$120
Backstage Subscription	1 year subscription	\$99.96
<a href="#">Dramaturgy Intensive at the Kennedy Center</a>	Will apply during my spring semester to attend virtually between June 1-June 28 2022	\$150
<a href="#">The Empty Space</a>	Written by Peter Brook, Purchased on Amazon	\$13
<a href="#">Caryl ChurchHill Plays Volume 2</a>	Purchased on Amazon	\$15.25
<a href="#">Duncan MacMillan Plays (Volume 1)</a>	By Duncan MacMillan, Purchased on Amazon	\$18
<a href="#">The Viewpoints Book</a>	By Anne Bogart and Tina Landau	\$16.99
<a href="#">The Actor's Book of Contemporary Stage Monologues</a>	By Nina Shengold	\$5.39
<a href="#">A Strange Loop Ticket</a>	On December 21, 2022. Prices vary depending on when I am able to get funding to purchase a ticket.  Seating in left Orchestra seat B1	\$106.65

Total: \$545.24

I acknowledge that this surpasses the allotted \$500 and intend to cover the remaining \$45.24 out of pocket.

Estimated Timeline:

December:

- Purchase playscripts and subscriptions to online services

January - June

- Use these resources to look for job opportunities and scout out other necessities to prepare for a career in the arts.

Having the opportunity to purchase these subscriptions and materials would be instrumental in my development as a theater artist and a huge first step in keeping theater in my life.

Thank you for your consideration!