

Proposal Narrative

Title: Delving Deeper into Screendance

I am requesting funding to support my development as a screendance maker. Access to personal camera equipment would allow me to experiment, practice, and refine my skills over the summer, ensuring that I return to UVA prepared to create high-quality screendances.

Screendance is a powerful artistic medium that merges choreography, cinematography, and editing to produce dance films. Unlike live dance performances which are ephemeral in nature, screendance allows for permanent artistic expression which can be shared across the world. Last semester, I developed a passion for this medium in Professor Kim Brooks Mata's screendance course. I produced my first dance films and developed an appreciation for filming dance choreography, exploring new spaces with a camera, and editing footage to music.

Two of my films have been featured in the UVA dance concerts this year and were also selected to be screened at the American College Dance Association Mid-Atlantic Conference. I plan to continue creating screendances next year for the UVA dance concerts and potential submissions in film festivals. With Professor Mata as my mentor, I will continue to explore and refine my artistic voice in this medium.

Having access to my own camera equipment would greatly assist me in my artistic development. During the academic year, renting cameras from the drama department is unreliable due to high demand from the screendance class, and Clemons Library does not allow long-term rentals. With personal equipment, I would work over the summer to capture film content and hone my artistic skills. When I return to UVA in the fall, I would love to collaborate with other artists – working with musicians to create soundtracks and filming dancers to bring artistic visions to light. Additionally, I plan to pursue an independent study with Professor Mata in the fall where I would conceptualize, shoot, and edit films throughout the school year. My goal is to create one or two screendances for UVA dance concerts and the Awards Outcome Presentation.

Below is my itemized list of requested equipment, including hyperlinks, justifications for each item, and the total estimated cost of \$2,500, including tax. A detailed breakdown can be found in the attached spreadsheet. Thank you for your consideration. I hope to use this opportunity to explore and contribute to the field of screendance and further my artistic growth in the UVA dance community.

Budget Item

<i>Camera Equipment</i>			
Camcorder	Canon XA60 Professional UHD 4K Camcorder	A handheld camcorder will allow me to film my screendances with my dancer. This one is lightweight and has places to hold it on the top and side to permit maximum mobility in filming.	Sale Price: \$1,599.00, Full Price: \$1,799.00
Hard Drive	WD 2TB My Passport Ultra USB 3.0 Type-C External Hard Drive for Mac	This 2TB external harddrive is necessary for keeping large files of footage of films. Additionally, it has a large enough capacity while still remaining lightweight and portable.	\$89.99
Memory Card	Lexar 128GB Professional 1667x UHS-II SDXC Memory Card (2-Pack)	This is a two pack of memory cards which will be useful for longer projects, allowing me to collect my footage and have a back up in the event of an issue with one memory card.	\$52.99
Lens Protector	Chiario Pro 58mm 99-UVBTS Brass UV Filter	A lens protector is essential to protect the delicate camera lens against scratches or smudges (on in the event of a ding or drop).	\$46.95
Camera Bag	Arco Video Dr. Bag 20	This camera bag has room for both the camera and its accessories, both protecting the camera and allowing me to carry it with more ease.	\$129.00
Tripod	Manfrotto Befree Advanced Carbon Fiber Travel Tripod with 494 Ball Head (Twist Locks, Black)	This lightweight carbon fiber tripod is necessary for filming stable shots and can be easily transported to different filming locations.	\$299.90
Microphone	Canon DM-E100 Directional Microphone	This microphone will be useful in collecting diegetic sounds for my films.	\$129.00
Extra Battery	Watson BP-828 Lithium-Ion Battery Pack (7.4V, 2670mAh)	Having an extra battery would allow me to shoot for longer periods of time without needing to stop and charge somewhere.	\$69.00
ACDC Charger	Watson Compact AC/DC Charger for Canon BP-800 Series Batteries	This charger will enable me to charge a battery while using the camera which increases filming flexibility and allows me to charge two batteries at once.	\$19.95
Hood	Vello 3.5" LCD Hood	The hood will allow me to see screen when I capture footage outside in the bright sun.	\$18.50
Subtotal			\$2,351.24
Estimated Tax			\$124.62
Estimated Total			\$2,475.86 - \$2,675.86
Overage	If the camera remains on sale, \$200	Applied to purchasing costumes, rights for music, or other relevant incidentals related to film production.	
Final Total			\$2,675.86

Evidence of Participation in the Arts:

When I first came to UVA in the fall of 2023, I was eager to continue my ballet training, so I took the Ballet II class offered here. The following semester, I auditioned for the Spring Dance Concert, and I experienced tremendous growth as a dancer during this time. I loved the collaboration between myself and the other dancers, and I greatly appreciated the feedback I was receiving to improve my skills. Additionally, I enrolled in the Modern Groove class that semester, which, while greatly taking me out of my comfort zone, taught me to push myself and become more comfortable with finding my own voice in dance. These experiences from the spring semester of 2024 made me incredibly enthusiastic about the dance program, so I chose to run and was selected for the Outreach Chair Position of the Virginia Dance Committee.

This past school year, the Virginia Dance Committee, which is the student branch of the dance department, has given me opportunities to connect with other dancers and help provide others with the positive, warm community I had experienced. My position has also led me to participate in community outreach, as I began volunteering with other members of the committee to teach dance at the Boys and Girls Club of Charlottesville. I have loved being able to use this position to build community both within UVA and the broader Charlottesville city.

Additionally, this past year I took the Screendance class and fell in love with this new medium for dance. It taught me to have a new eye for both film and dance, and I am incredibly eager to continue this interest throughout the rest of my time at UVA. I was able to use this skill to create two films that were screened in last semester's Fall Dance Concert and this upcoming Spring Dance Concert. It has been immensely rewarding to not only be a dancer in these concerts, but also a contributor to the program through my films.

Outside of the UVA Dance Program, I have become involved in Rhapsody Ballet Ensemble as a dancer and choreographer. I grew up doing primarily ballet since I was three years old, so I knew this was something I wanted to continue doing in college. I have participated in every show for Rhapsody throughout my time here, initially as a dancer, and now as a choreographer as well. I have loved being able to choreograph in a style that I grew up doing, because it has allowed me to put my skills to new uses and create dances for other people to participate in.

I look forward to continuing the development of my skills as a dancer and growth in new areas through the Miller Arts Scholar Program. I particularly am excited to attend seminars and learn from artists from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines.

Portfolio Example 1: This film was featured in the 2024 UVA Fall Dance Concert and was my third project for the screendance class through which I directed, edited, and produced it. Additionally, it was shown at the American College Dance Association Midatlantic Conference, and features Alicia Kesting-Kim as the dancer.

<https://vimeo.com/1054158835/8d264ace3c?share=copy>

Portfolio Example 2: This was my final project for the Screendance class which I directed, edited, and produced, and it will be screened in the upcoming UVA Spring Dance Concert. It was also featured in the American College Dance Association Midatlantic Conference. The dancers featured in this film are Miller Arts Scholars Alicia Kesting-Kim and Elizabeth Moore.

<https://youtu.be/smlWBhjHlKM>