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Miller Arts Scholars Fall 2021

The Power of a Picture: Outcome Report

Thanks to the Miller Arts Mini-grant that I was awarded this past semester, I was able to get professional headshots taken, which are a vital material to have as I move forward as a performer. I planned to get my pictures taken over winter break, and didn't want to travel far in order to reduce possible COVID exposure, so I restricted my search to photographers based where I live, in the DC area. However, most of the photographers that I found would have required me to pay more than I was willing to pay out-of-pocket. In addition, I didn't feel like the aesthetic of their photography matched with the personal brand that I would like to cultivate, which involves more natural and down-to-earth aesthetics.

A few weeks after being awarded the grant, my a cappella group and I did a promotional photoshoot, shot by fellow UVA student and friend, Jaison Washington. I loved the style and quality of the pictures that Jaison took, and asked if he would be willing to work with me on this project. We arranged to have the photoshoot the weekend before we went home for winter break. Over Thanksgiving break, I got a haircut and touch-up in preparation for the photoshoot. Since I will be using these pictures professionally for the next few years, I wanted to put my best foot, or face, forward. I am pleased with how natural and sleek this makeover ended up looking.

I had an extremely positive experience working with Jaison. Since he is one of my friends, I felt much more comfortable in front of the camera than I would have with someone new, which I think is reflected in my headshots. He also gave me access to all 500+ pictures that we took over the course of the session, which would not have been the case with any of the other photographers that I was considering. Now, I have a plethora of pictures taken from different angles and distances, and with different backgrounds, outfits, and facial expressions that I can switch out and use for a variety of purposes, including auditions and jobs. I am extremely grateful to Miller Arts for making this project a possibility, and for enabling me to take this important step forward in my artistic career. Thank you, Miller Arts!

Expenses

Item	Cost
Haircut & Touch-up	\$168
Compensation for photographer	\$250
Total:	\$418

Finalized Headshots



(Above) One of the shots from my initial shoot with Jaison. I love the natural light and outdoor setting of these headshots, so if there were any contexts where that kind of picture would be appropriate, I could use these shots!





5 shots from the indoor studio shoot!