

Meggie Ferguson

Miller Arts Scholars Minigrant Proposal

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“All the world’s a stage”: Embracing European Theatre and Art

Project Summary

This semester, I am studying abroad in London through IES Abroad’s Theatre Studies program. London is a city teeming with theatre and art; on just about every block, there’s a different theatre, museum, gallery, or exhibition. In the tube, the mode of transportation that I use multiple times a day, there are a plethora of rotating advertisements for shows, concerts, and exhibitions which always catch my eye. During the six weeks that I have been here so far, I have filled my free time with adventures to many of London’s neighborhoods, trips around England to Bath, Canterbury, and Dover, visits to museums and art galleries, and a wide range of theatrical performances and experiences at different venues around the city. While my classes, including a course at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, have been extremely insightful and interesting, some of the most enriching and inspiring experiences I have had thus far have been outside of the classroom, as I have soaked up the wonderful art and culture that London has to offer.

As a student in the Theatre Studies program, we are required to attend 10 shows throughout our time here, nine that we see as a class on Thursday evenings, and one that we get to choose to see on our own. Already, we have seen a wide range of shows from West End productions to fringe shows, from musicals to plays, from large ensemble productions to a one-woman show, and I have found myself being inspired by or drawn to different elements of each show, learning so much about the craft of acting/theatre production just by going to the theatre. The three remaining shows that we will see as a class this semester are *Wuthering Heights*, *After the End*, and *The Merchant of Venice*, which will cost about \$122. In addition, while I am living in London, I feel strongly that I should attend as many shows as possible outside of my program in order to learn from British theatrical techniques and to grow as a theatre artist; receiving a Miller Arts minigrant would allow me to do so.

I have never been as inspired by architecture and art as I have been in London. Luckily, many of the galleries and museums I have visited thus far have been free to enter, but there are some exhibitions that I would love to see that require tickets, which have deterred me from visiting them. In addition, I will be traveling to cities outside of England in the coming months, such as Paris, where some of the classic museums and architectural wonders, such as the Louvre and the Musée de l’Orangerie, each require a ticket to enter. Below, I have listed out an example sampling of some of the shows that I would like to see and exhibitions that I would like to attend. However, this list may shift due to availability and price changes depending on when I purchase tickets and how my interests shift. Having never traveled outside of the States prior to this experience, I wake up each day bursting with excitement over all the new things that I am going to learn just by seizing all of these artistic opportunities, and I would be extremely grateful to receive a minigrant to make even more of these excursions possible.

Schedule for Completion

This exploration of European art, theatre, and culture will be completed during March-May 2022, the remaining weeks that I will be abroad. Each of the remaining shows that I will see with my program will be presented on Thursdays throughout the semester. I will be able to plan out more specific dates for the other excursions once I have more clarity on how the rest of my semester will look.

Budget

Expense	Cost
<i>Wuthering Heights</i> ticket	\$60
<i>After the End</i> ticket	\$16.31
<i>Merchant of Venice</i> ticket	\$45.66
<i>Life of Galileo</i> play text	\$4
<i>The Lady from the Sea</i> play text	\$7.83
<i>Actions: The Actors' Thesaurus</i> book	\$10.33
<i>Mamma Mia</i> ticket	\$66.68
<i>& Juliet</i> ticket	\$32.61
<i>The Cursed Child</i> (Parts I and II) tickets	\$195.69
London Symphony Orchestra ticket	\$24
Ticket to <i>The Forsythe Evening</i> presented by the English National Ballet	\$20.11
Louvre ticket (Paris)	\$18.94
Total	~ \$500 (<i>If any of the materials/tickets happen to exceed this total, I will cover them</i>)