

**Edinburgh Fringe Festival — Experiencing New Works, Solo Shows, & Experimental  
Theatre at an International Performing Arts Festival**

MAS Arts Award Application | Kate Hovey, Drama Scholar  
Faculty Mentor: David Dalton

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

I am applying with scholar Abby Milne for a combined \$6,000 to travel in August to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. As a scholar of Drama, the opportunity to spend a week immersed in experimental theatre works and art exhibitions will expand my knowledge and appreciation for my field. In addition to my interest in acting, my creative projects are influenced by my love of music, visual art, and other forms of performance. The Fringe would give me the chance to engage with all of these fields—in one week, in one city.

The Arts Award funding would allow Abby and I to travel to and around Edinburgh, purchase tickets for shows, and cover food and lodging. After our six nights in Edinburgh, I plan to travel individually to London for two nights to see some West End shows. This portion of the trip will be entirely self-funded—I am only requesting that the grant cover expenses related to the Fringe.

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**PROPOSED PROJECT**

Attending the Edinburgh Fringe Festival would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me as a multidisciplinary artist and scholar of Drama. At UVA, I have engaged with theatre as an actor, director, designer, critic, and audience member, and I am always seeking new ways to deepen my understanding of performance as an evolving art form. The Fringe's diversity of performances and artists would provide me with a unique opportunity to engage directly with a wide range of experimental theatre practices, many of which I would not otherwise have access to in the United States.

Over the past two years, I have been committed to exploring the intersections of art, technology, and performance. As a double major in Drama and Computer Science, I am particularly interested in the ways digital media can enhance or transform the theatrical experience. At the Fringe, I plan to pay close attention to how artists choose to engage with technology in their work. This will help me refine my own perspective as an artist and a scholar of theatre.

Another motivation for this experience comes from my involvement with student organizations on Grounds, most notably Shakespeare on the Lawn. I am passionate about making classical texts, such as Shakespeare's, feel accessible and alive for modern audiences. Directing the New Works show *Be a Doll* this spring confirmed my desire to continue directing in the future, likely

through Shakespeare on the Lawn. I believe that the performances I see at the Fringe will introduce me to bold approaches to storytelling that I can incorporate into my work at UVA.

The Arts Award grant would allow Abby and me to fully dive into the rich creativity of the Fringe without the financial burden of international travel. The support detailed in the budget section of this application will ensure that we are able to make the most of this unique opportunity. After our six nights in Edinburgh, I also plan to spend two nights in London—at my own personal expense—to watch West End productions and round out my experience with another iconic part of the UK's theatre scene.

Our faculty mentor, David Dalton, taught us both in Directing and continued to offer support as we each directed individual plays for the New Works festival. Due to his expertise, I know that he will be a great resource to explore ideas with upon our return next fall and can guide us towards how they can be implemented.

Ultimately, this trip aligns perfectly with my academic focus, creative goals, and commitment to the arts at UVA. It would be a huge step in my continued growth as a theatrical artist and would bring fresh energy and perspective to my work on Grounds.

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## **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL PREPARATION**

Abby and I have both reached out to Hoos Abroad via email about logging our travel itinerary and taking the necessary first steps to set up our trip with the International Studies Office. We will each be meeting with a representative within the next few weeks.

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## **FUTURE GOALS**

I have loved the opportunities I've found at UVA for students to create and produce their own dramatic works. Although I have been primarily an actor for much of my artistic career, I have recently expanded into creative design and direction. Working as the director for the New Works show *Be a Doll* this spring solidified my desire to continue directing in the future, likely through Shakespeare on the Lawn. In addition to directing, I am interested in expanding into playwriting, with plans to take a course in it next year. Since I have two years left in my undergraduate career at UVA, I believe that now is the perfect time for me to experience the Fringe. By engaging with artists from around the world, I aim to bring back a richer, more globally informed perspective to my work at UVA. This opportunity feels like a natural next step in my development as a multidisciplinary theatre artist.

**The following section of the application is the same for both Abby Milne and I.**

## **PROJECTED BUDGET**

(assuming we would stay 7 days / 6 nights total in Edinburgh)

<b>Item</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Flight (both ways)	~ \$1,408.94 per person ~ <b>\$2,818 total</b>	Leaving August 2 & returning August 8  May cost more for the checked baggage; price may go up after grants are chosen  Flights from Skyscanner, link off the Fringe website
Festival Tickets	Differ between performances; 30 shows @ ~ \$20 each = \$600 per person  <b>\$1,200 total</b>	The ticket prices on the Edinburgh Fringe website ranged from about 10 to 22 pounds (give or take!), which equates to about \$12.94 - \$28.47. There may be 2 for 1 or <a href="#">other discounts</a> available once we get to Edinburgh. Ticket price is averaged to give an idea based on a rough schedule of five shows per day (doable considering the short duration and close proximity of the shows).
Housing	Roughly \$350 per night for 2 people  <b>\$2,100 total</b> for 6 nights - \$1,050 per person	AirBnbs near Edinburgh. Hotels looked more expensive on the Fringe site and may fill up due to the popularity of the Festival  Note: housing may be more or less expensive depending where we decide to rent for the week
Food	\$40 per day per person for 7 days  <b>\$560 total</b>	We may be able to cut personal expenditures by finding cheaper food options & cooking at the Airbnb
Transportation (within	£5 per day x 7 days = £35 =	The Fringe website says “Edinburgh

Edinburgh) - Lothian bus network	about \$45.28 per person  <b>\$92 total</b>	is a compact city and most venues are located within easy walking distance of each other,” so I anticipate we’ll largely be walking around to get from venue to venue.  The bus can get us to the outskirts (ie back to our Airbnb) – we’ll want to use Ridacard, contactless payment or the Lothian Bus M-Tickets App
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**Total: \$6,770**

- Miller Arts Scholars Arts Award: \$6,000
- (Abby) Jefferson Scholars Professional Development Fund: \$385
- Kate’s personal funding: \$385

**TIMELINE**

- **As soon as Arts Award funding announced/released:** Abby & Kate purchase plane tickets, Airbnb, and initial Fringe tickets
- **August 2, 2025:** Abby & Kate fly to Edinburgh
- **August 2 - 8, 2025:** Abby & Kate at Edinburgh Fringe Festival

We will likely choose many of our shows while we are in Edinburgh — some of interest:

- [Earnest...?](#)
- [Bibbity Bobbity Bondi](#)
- [A Year and a Day](#)
- [Married at Fringe Sight](#)
- [ABBA Odyssey: The Live Concert!](#)
- [Absurd Hero \(The Musical\)](#)
- [Almost Famous](#)
- [BOMBSHELL](#)
- [Beth Knight: Who Told You to Be Small](#)
- [Tomatoes Tried to Kill Me but Banjos Saved My Life](#)
- **August 8, 2025:** Kate heads to London, Abby flies home to Charlottesville
  - May shift this date up to August 7th depending on London plan
- **August 10, 2025:** Kate flies home to Washington DC

**NOTES & RESEARCH**

Fringe Festival FAQs: <https://www.edfringe.com/faqs/>

How to do the Fringe on a budget (Playbill):

<https://playbill.com/article/heres-how-to-do-the-edinburgh-festival-fringe-on-a-budget>

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**ACADEMIC AND ARTISTIC PREPARATION:**

During my two years at UVA, I have taken a very interdisciplinary approach to my study of Drama. I am a double major in Drama and Computer Science, and am interested in exploring the unexpected ways in which art and technology can combine. This was explored in Video Design and Sound Design, which were two courses I took in the Department of Drama that heavily incorporated digital practices into the artistic work. Other notable academic work includes Acting I and II, Directing, Studio Art, and involvement in the New Works production as both a performer and a director. During my time at The Fringe, I hope to pay special attention to how artists may choose to engage or not with technology in their work.

My artistic involvements also include the work I do with CIOs. I am heavily involved with Shakespeare on the Lawn, having acted in three shows, produced one, and am currently serving on the executive board for the club. Through this work, I have developed a deep love for the complexities and interpretive freedom of Shakespeare and classical theatre at large. I am always looking for new ways to make these texts feel alive for contemporary audiences, and I am certain that attending the Edinburgh Fringe Festival will expose me to a wide range of theatrical voices and styles that I can use in my work. Seeing how international artists reinterpret classical texts will allow me to infuse future productions with greater creativity, inclusivity, and innovation.

In the Miller Arts Scholars program, I have taken CASS 1010 and am currently enrolled in CASS 1011. I am also the marketing chair for the program. Surrounding myself with peers who are equally passionate about the arts has pushed me to grow not only as an artist, but also as a collaborator and leader. Attending the Edinburgh Fringe Festival would be a continuation of that commitment. I would treat this experience not just as an opportunity for personal artistic growth, but as a way to bring back new ideas and practices that will enrich the creative community at UVA.

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**PORTFOLIO EXAMPLES**

**ACTING:**

This is a recorded monologue as Georgie from Spike Heels.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sm-oU\\_9H9ts](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sm-oU_9H9ts)

**DIRECTING:**

This is a clip from the show Be a Doll that I directed as a part of the New Works festival spring of 2025.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hs2MVSRNVc>

**VIDEO DESIGN:**

This is a clip from my final presentation in Video Design (DRAM 3820) at the University of Virginia Fall 2024. It was created using stop-motion animation projected onto a dress form. Everything was done by me.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vkVRuoTWgcHC53DeV-nwJ0fR-4\\_GH0Rn/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vkVRuoTWgcHC53DeV-nwJ0fR-4_GH0Rn/view?usp=sharing)