

Taylor Lamb
A Summer at Stella Adler Studio of Acting
Project Outcome Report
Class of 2018

Last spring, I was fortunate enough to receive the rising 4th year arts award from the Miller Arts Scholars to attend the Summer Conservatory at Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York City. I spent ten weeks rigorously working to build my craft and decide what type of actor I wanted to be. This training at Stella Adler ended up being the most enriching experience of my life by far, and I look forward to using everything I learned in all of my future acting endeavors.

The course schedule at Stella Adler was understandably rigorous. My group consisted of a cohort of 16 members, and we were in class 22 hours a week. We were in class together that whole time, so we became very close very quickly, and



A photo of me and my cohort

grew a lot as a group. My courses were: Movement, Voice and Speech, Adler Technique, Scene Study, Shakespeare, Improvisation, Film and TV, Ensemble, and then a one week practicum in which we discussed the business side of being an actor.

These courses were all so helpful to me, and I learned so much from each of them.

I hated Improv before attending Stella Adler. I felt as though I didn't have the "right" type of humor for it, and therefore never knew how to act. But in my improv class, we learned techniques such as "follow the follower" and what we should be

focusing on in our scenes, and suddenly improv made sense to me. Now, I actually look forward to doing it, as opposed to dreading it. The way we approached character work in Scene Study completely transformed my life, and it gave me a very tangible way to craft my character that I will be using for the rest of my life, and am using right now as I prepare to perform in *Canaan* for the Spring New Works Festival. In Voice and Speech, I learned excellent warm up techniques that I can utilize before every show to keep me from straining my voice. I'll spare you detailing every thing I took away from each class, but suffice it to say that I took away tangible things that I will be able to use for my career as an actor for the rest of my life.

Another amazing benefit of being a Stella Adler student was getting to experience professional theatre. We had special access to show tickets for free, as well as discounted tickets to productions from the Harold Clurman Laboratory Theater Company. I was able to see *Loving and Loving* at Harold Clurman, *Napoli, Brooklyn* off-Broadway, and *Indecent* and *A Doll's House, Part 2* on Broadway. Those experiences were incredibly transformative, as I had never seen a straight play on



Me at my "graduation" ceremony

Broadway before. It was great to be able to experience this while I was receiving this intense training, because I was able to enjoy it, but also critique it. I thought of what I was learning in my classes and applied it to the works on stage, and viewed it in a different way than I may have before I started my training.

It was a very hard decision for me when I chose to minor in Drama rather than major in it. I needed to

do it academically, but I often worried I wasn't receiving rigorous enough training, and that this was going to severely hinder me in the future. A summer at Stella Adler alleviated those concerns. It was great being able to singularly focus on my craft in a way I never could have before. I now feel as though I have the tools to pursue a professional acting career, and that is not something I could say before this summer.