

Artist Mini-grant Outcome Report
Proposed to Fund Equipment and Workshop
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February 6th, 2017

Illuminated Significance

Exactly one year ago, LabShorts, my new student film company, began production on its first films. We walked onto set for the first knowing very little of each other and the equipment at our disposal. After a month of production, we had learned more about film making than we had in the past decade, but almost entirely by trial and error. Although this is a crucial part of any learning process, there's only so much rigging, duct taping, and guessing a group can do before it's obvious that professional help is needed.

Realizing this, I identified a rather desperate need for lighting education within our community. So I applied for a mini-grant to support paying a professional light technician to teach us how to light properly and to purchase lights for the workshop. The results have been fantastic.

Three members of our exec team and two new filmmakers were able to attend the event. The small group allowed for the one-on-one interaction needed to explore how to create meaning with light. Many say that film is simply movement, time, and light. To be a great filmmaker, you must understand how and why to apply all three. Here are a few pictures of our filmmakers learning about one of the three vital elements.



Workshop leader, Michael Duni, testing overhead light techniques with filmmaker Ben Feldman.



Katherine McMahon, director of "Guardian Angel" working on camera settings while the LabShorts Exec team observes

After this workshop, our filmmakers produced some of the best looking and best lit films we've seen yet. More importantly, each of the workshop participants have since shared what they learned with other filmmakers, strengthening both our community and our art. Personally, I would call this a successful and worthwhile use of Miller Arts Scholar funds.

I want thank the J. Sanford Miller Family and the Colbert Family for their support of the UVa Miller Arts Scholars Program and the funding they have provided us. It has provided our growing film community invaluable opportunities for growth and exploration.



The final application of Ben's lighting idea (see picture above) for one of our Fall productions, "Low Battery" starring Jess Littman



Another screenshot from "Low Battery"