

Artist Minigrant Application  
Proposal to Fund Equipment for Research  
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January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### **Ambient Noir: Sound and Storytelling**

My name is Aspen Miller and I am a third-year Drama major with a focus on Film. I am requesting funding for audio equipment that will allow me to further study the importance of sound in filmmaking and storytelling by the use of a Zoom H4n Portable Recorder and a RodeLink Wireless Filmmaker Kit.

#### **Project Description**

As any decent filmmaker knows, audio is everything. It can make or break a piece no matter how brilliant it is. Audiences won't care about engaging concepts or beautiful camera work if all they hear is muffled sound. For a film to be taken seriously, audio must be clean, crisp, and well edited. I have always known the importance of audio in film, but I have never had the equipment or experience to create a truly engaging sound narrative. In light of this, I am proposing a personal research project focused on audio narrative. I will study sound as a storytelling device by using a combination of alternative sound design and professional audio equipment with a classic Noir script. Noir is the perfect genre for a study of sound because of stylistic voiceovers, slow ambient builds, boisterous fight scenes, and sharp dialogue.

#### **Timeline**

The film will be done in three episodes. Episodes 1 and 2 will begin February 20<sup>th</sup>. We need to hold auditions and gather crew before then. We will finish filming

by March 19<sup>th</sup> and begin editing the 20<sup>th</sup>. Episodes 1 and 2 will be shown at Virginia Players LabShorts Showcase at the end of April. Episode 3 will film this June and will be shown August 2016.

### **Budget**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Price (Tax included, Free shipping)</b>
Zoom H4n Portable Recorder	\$212.03
RodeLink Wireless Filmmakers Kit	\$423.24

The Zoom H4n is a professional grade portable multitrack audio recorder. It will allow me to record on the go, whether I use the powerful onboard mike or a boom mike, my audio will be crisp and deliberate. The RodeLink Wireless Filmmakers Kit can be used for a number of situations, but is ideal for recording dialogue in a less than ideal environment. It will cut wind and distance out of the equation. This will allow me to apply music, voiceovers, and unique sound design to moments that could have been ruined by audio that was recorded unintentionally. I will cover the additional \$125.28 that the grant will not.