

Abby Milne
Miller Arts Scholars Minigrant Proposal
Fall 2024

Professional Online Portfolio and Solo Show Scripts for Thesis Research

Project Summary

As I move into the second half of my undergraduate experience, I am interested in expanding my work beyond student-run theatre and picking up more professional or community projects. In our Miller Arts Scholars seminar, we have discussed the value of curating a professional online portfolio to speak for our work when we are not able to directly represent ourselves. To that end, I am requesting funding for my first year of a Wix Core Premium plan. I would use this website to display my multi-disciplinary theatre work as a director, producer, performer, and playwright.

This semester, I have had the opportunity to work with UVA Drama faculty on a Live Arts production of *What the Constitution Means to Me* by Heidi Schreck. While the play features two minor characters in addition to its main actor, it largely functions as a one-woman show. Playwright Schreck's fusion of memoir, family history, and political commentary inspired me to take a deeper dive into the solo show as an art form.

I am interested in proposing a Distinguished Major Thesis through the English department that would explore the structural and thematic parallels between biographical/autobiographical one-person shows, particularly those that tell the stories of women, nonbinary people, and genderqueer people. In conjunction with this academic thesis, I would write my own one-person show and perform it in the spring of my fourth year.

In order to prepare for the writing portion of this project, I want to spend the next two semesters reading published scripts of one-person plays. I would benefit from owning physical copies of these scripts that I can annotate and return to throughout this year and next. I am requesting money for three anthologies of solo shows recommended by Drama Professor Katelyn Wood, who specializes in performance theory and theatre history. I am also requesting three physical scripts of individual critically acclaimed one-person shows and a digital libretto for a one-woman Andrew Lloyd Webber musical.

Working with physical copies of these scripts will help me more deeply engage with their material. I hope to use some of the plays I read as source texts for my proposed DMP thesis and inspiration for my original one-person show.

Proposed Budget

Item	Cost	Notes
Wix Core Premium Plan (1 year)	\$348	\$29 x 12 months
<i>Extreme Exposure: An Anthology of Solo Performance Texts from the Twentieth Century</i> edited by Jo Bonney	\$27.12	Anthology of solo theatrical works recommended by Prof. Katelyn Wood
<i>solo/black/woman: scripts, interviews, and essays</i> edited by E. Patrick Johnson and Ramón H. Rivera-Servera	\$34.95	Collection of solo work by emerging feminist performance artists recommended by Prof. Katelyn Wood
<i>Voices Made Flesh: Performing Women'S Autobiography (Wisconsin Studies in Autobiography)</i> by Lynn C. Miller, Jacqueline Taylor, and M. Heather Carver	\$26.95	Collection of fourteen scripts and essays about influential women's lives recommended by Prof. Katelyn Wood
<i>I Am My Own Wife: A Play</i> by Doug Wright	\$17.67	Famous one-person show
<i>Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe</i> by Jane Wagner	\$15.19	Famous one-person show
<i>Tell Me on a Sunday</i>	\$3.95	Digital libretto perusal of the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical from Concord Theatricals (licensing website)
<i>Fleabag: The Scriptures</i> by Phoebe Waller-Bridge	\$17.99	Famous one-person show that inspired the Amazon Prime

Total cost: \$491.82

Timeline

If my grant is approved, I will place orders for the books and website subscription as soon as possible.