

## LONDON, UK SEMESTER ABROAD: THE FOUNDATIONS OF CLASSICAL ACTING

### PROPOSAL

My life has always been one of creating my own paths.

I grew up in a small Southern town, homeschooled by my former football player father. With no school theatre program available to me, I had to create my own opportunities and learn how to train on my own. When I was accepted to study Drama at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts High School my senior year, I moved away from home at barely 17 years old to pursue theatre in a new city full of new experiences. And when the time came to choose a college program, I once again took the road less traveled.

Choosing to attend an academically rigorous school instead of an acting conservatory was a difficult decision, and yet one that has led to a great breadth of opportunities. At the University of Virginia, I have been given the gift of creating that path for myself, and have been shown many terrific opportunities for exploring theatre. However, while my time at the University of Virginia has given me the gift of freedom to explore my personal artistic interests, I still find myself craving more focused performance training.

For this reason, I am applying for \$1,500 to fund **a semester of studying classical acting abroad** at one of London's most prestigious acting schools, either the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art or the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. I have already been accepted to LAMDA's semester program, and am still awaiting response from RADA following my audition in early March.

The University of Virginia's Drama Department does not currently offer courses in voice, Shakespeare, clowning, movement, or many of the subjects covered in these study abroad programs. I find this to be a major gap in my artistic training. My experience with voice training has taught me control, intention, and how to be deliberate with my acting choices. Working on Shakespeare's texts has taught me text analysis and performance skills that apply to all types of theatrical performance. Movement and clowning has given me a newfound physical freedom in my work. I want to attend LAMDA or RADA for a semester to hone these skills, and many more that I am lacking in my current college training.

When I saw *The Taming of the Shrew* at Shakespeare's Globe three years ago, I had little experience with classical acting. I was amazed by how effortlessly the actors utilized Shakespeare's text, and shortly after seeing the play I dove into my own studies of classical acting. This experience taught me that Shakespeare and his classical counterparts are the foundation of all acting work. I know that during my studies I have merely scratched the surface, and long to explore this theatrical realm in more depth. Studying in London can help me discover Shakespeare and his classical counterparts in a way no program in America can, and living in London will allow me to explore a city where I hope to someday consider living and working,

away from the distractions of familiarity in America. Being in residence overseas will give me the chance to focus on one thing: improving my craft.

I have come to a point in my career where I long to be challenged. I crave improvement in my craft, experience in my field, and the sharpening of my actor instincts and intellect. I can't wait to return to America with a newfound grasp of classical texts and share them at the Miller Arts Scholars Outcome Presentation. I feel an innate responsibility to not only create, but to surround myself with those who do. For these reasons, I hope to study classical acting in London next fall. This experience will help fulfil the goals I have for my career as a theatre artist, and will give me a cultural and educational experience second to none. This is the next step in my unique path.

#### OUTSIDE RESOURCES

[LAMDA Semester Programme Classical Acting](#)

[Shakespeare in Performance at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art](#)

## ANTICIPATED PROJECT TIMELINE

### Spring 2019

- Early March: audition for RADA's semester program
- March/April: Accept position at LAMDA or RADA
- April 30: final day of second year

### Fall 2019

- August 28 (RADA) or September 9 (LAMDA): first day of classes in London
- December 14: final day of classes in London

### Spring 2020

- First week of April: presentation at the Center for Undergraduate Excellence (short performance and explanation of studies)

## PROPOSED BUDGET

Expense	Amount	Details
LAMDA Semester Programme Classical Acting*	\$12,720	Semester fee
Air Travel	\$1,400	Estimated
Lodging	\$5,212	LAMDA student housing (14 weeks)
Food	\$1,400	\$100 per week for 14 weeks
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$20,732</b>	

\*this budget assumes acceptance to LAMDA; other program fees are comparable

Income	Amount	Details
Miller Arts Scholars Rising Third Year Arts Award	\$1,500	
Sydney Elizabeth Owens Memorial Scholarship	\$6,000	(Anticipated)
Personal Contributions	\$13,232	May change based on scholarship
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$20,732</b>	

## EVIDENCE OF PARTICIPATION IN THE ARTS

My experience at the University of Virginia has been full of artistic experiences and exploration, especially in the UVA Department of Drama and student theatre groups on Grounds. After two semesters serving as Lab Series Chair for the Virginia Players, the student wing of the Department of Drama, I stepped up to Co-President the group alongside Miller Arts Scholars President Savannah Edwards. During my time with Virginia Players, I have spearheaded many major events including our “Play-In-A-Day: 24 Hour Play Festival” that now performs to full crowds and our Theatre Fair kickoff event that strives to create a bridge between departmental and student theatre on Grounds. As Co-President, I am also currently helping to produce *Constellations*, our 2019 Lab Series production.

I have helped produce events outside of Virginia Players such as the UVA Arts Administration Wadada Leo Smith Artist in Residency, and during my first semester I completed an internship at off-Broadway 59E59 Theaters as an Arts Administration Intern for the new play *Occupied Territories*.

I have taken multiple courses in UVA’s departments of Drama, Music, and Arts Administration to carve out my unique path as a musical theatre performer and aspiring producer. I currently study singing with the head of UVA voice faculty, Pamela Beasley. While in her studio I have had the opportunity to perform for many different audiences and compete on many occasions. During my first UVA trip to the National Association of Teacher of Singing Competition, I placed first regionally in Lower College Musical Theatre Women. I have also participated in many performance masterclasses at UVA, including one taught by Tony Award winner Kelli O’Hara.

I have performed in multiple UVA productions, including *Urinetown* as Hope, *WE ARE PUSSY RIOT OR EVERYTHING IS P.R.* as ensemble, *New Works Festival* as Liz/Beth, and *Bernstein’s Mass* as Street Chorus. Last summer, I also performed as Myrtle Mae in *Harvey* at Heritage Theatre Festival, UVA’s professional summer theatre. I am currently starring as Wendla Bergmann in Spectrum Theatre’s production of *Spring Awakening*, and played Amy in their production of *Company* during my first semester at the University.

In addition to my departmental work, I hold positions of leadership in many artistic organizations on Grounds. I am a member of the UVA Student Council Arts Committee and Social Media Manager/Web Team for First Year Players. I have also served as a lighting hand for First Year Players in the past.

I am now in my second full semester as a Miller Arts Scholar of Drama, and have taken or am taking both seminars offered to scholars (CASS 1010 and CASS 1011). Last semester I was the recipient of a Mini-Grant that I used to study the actor’s spoken voice with teacher Tovah Close, and I look forward to further involvement in the Arts Scholars Community as my years at UVA progress.