

Alex Murphy
Miller Art Scholars
4 May 2018

Outcome Report: The Acquisition of Dance through Videography

The goal of my Miller Art Scholars Minigrant was to create two video projects, one including more commercial dance and the other with more exploratory improvisational work. Receiving this money allowed me to get a GoPro, a stand and memory card for the GoPro, and costuming for the later of the two projects. I thoroughly enjoyed creating both projects and I am pleased with how they turned out. Taking on both these projects helped me learn more about techniques on recording dance. By documenting more of my working and sharing it through accessible means like social media, I hope to create more of a platform for myself and to have more of my work seen than it would be able to otherwise.

For the initial project, I created a promotional video for the Virginia Dance Company. I did this by video taping a few rehearsals to show the hard work we have put into the pieces featured in our show this semester. I tried to get a number of angled shots and overall group shots to allow for a mix of individualized moments in addition to moments that emphasize the size of our company. From there, I posted this video on Youtube and shared the link in the Facebook event for the show. In addition, the video was posted on our dance company's Instagram. It ended up getting about 144 views on Youtube, and I think this video increased attendance at the show. I know that a lot of dancers in the company enjoyed having this as a publicity tool, so hopefully creating a promotional video will continue on for shows to come.

The second project was more of a challenge for me. I wanted it to not have very set parameters because I wanted it to be a highly improvisational piece. My goal was to experiment with how an impulse for inspiration can be translated across different mediums of art. For that reason I divided the work into 3 different sections. The first section had the impulse start with music. One of my peers, who is a dancer and studio artist, took in this music and used this as her momentum for creating a chalked drawing on the ground. From there, two other dancers came in to use this drawing as a source of inspiration for their movement. The second section took the opposite route. It started with music being the inspiration for movement, as the dancers improvisation took into account what they felt the music was telling them to do. From there, my one peer used this energy and feeling of the music and movement together to create another visual on the ground with chalk. The final section explored how a set environment can be the impulse for movement. By using the stairs, the dancers had to engage the set of constraints present in this physical space. I paired it with music to help guide them, but most of this exploration was between their bodies and this new, different site around them.

This second project helped me learn a lot about videography. I learned quickly on that, if filming outside, the sun will cast shadows. That was a frustrating part of trying to document all the wonderful movement my dancers were doing, because I didn't want my shadow or the camera's shadow to enter into the screen. I was not perfect with it, but as I went on with the project I got better about it. Additionally, I learned the challenges that come with trying to document improvisational movement. It was a fun challenge though. It was almost thrilling not knowing what the dancers were going to do next and having to be prepared to capture anything. There were moments when I was able to subconsciously work with the dancers and many more where the dancers subconsciously worked extremely well with each other. I think the ideas of

this project can be further explored with other mediums of art such as painting, live music, etc. This may be something I look more into for future projects.

Additionally, my budget changed a little from my original proposition. I ended up buying a cheaper GoPro and not spending as much on costumes. In addition, the participants of the improvisation project were close friends of mine who insisted they did not want the compensation I originally had budgeted for. This change in budget leaves me a lot of money to use to take class over the summer at Metropolitan School of the Arts, Greater Washington Dance Center, and possibly other studios within the Northern Virginia/DC area. I am excited to use this money to stay in dancing shape over the summer so that I will be able to more easily transition back to dance classes in the fall.

Virginia Dance Company Promotional Video: <https://youtu.be/LHqIZ1-YeOA>

An Improvisation Exploration of What Can Inspire the Creation of Art:
https://youtu.be/3pkH6_takLM

Budget Report:

Item	Price
Go Pro video camera	\$199.00
Go Pro stand and stick	\$32.99
Costumes	\$54.02
Memory Card	\$41.98
Money for Summer Dance Classes	\$172.01