

Julia Nelson, 3rd Year
Miller Arts Scholar in Drama
Fall 2021
Mini Grant Proposal

A killer Headshot: Crucial to the Actors Success

Project Summary

“A headshot for an actor is like a desk chair to a 9-5 employee.” A very successful friend of mine from community theatre once told me this, and it has always stuck. I have never had professional headshots taken as I have only done theatre through school and my community, but as I am furthering my acting aspirations and slowly approaching the end of undergrad, a good set of headshots is essential for my future and especially for this summer. I have two exciting ideas for this summer. I may audition for high quality community theatre /professional Summer Shows at Heritage, Live Arts, The Hartford Stage, Connecticut Theatre Company, etc. My other option is to apply to study abroad this summer in Dublin, Ireland at the Gaiety School of Acting- National Theatre School of Ireland. Having quality headshots to market myself will be essential to me achieving either of these summer goals. After I graduate college, I am going to need the tools to market myself to professionals in order to get auditions in the competitive theatre world.

I am a current third year Drama Major at UVA and have been heavily involved in the arts at this amazing school. My first year I performed in First Year Players’ productions of *The Music Man* and *Kiss Me, Kate* (that is, before covid struck!). I was also involved with the Drama Department’s production of *Love and Information* and was cast in *A Half-Hour Ride North* through the New Works Festival. Currently, I am preparing to play Helen in the Virginia Players production of *Peace by Piece*, and original musical by Vaheed Talebian. I have loved every second of theatre that I’ve been lucky enough to be a part of at UVA.

For all of these projects that I’ve worked on, I’ve used my high school senior photos and high school headshots. Though these were taken by great photographers, they definitely aren’t up to snuff and are almost three years old. Professional headshots, however, are extremely expensive; finding options under \$1,000 was even challenging! I would be incredibly grateful to receive assistance from Miller Arts Scholars to take this next step into immersing myself in the professional theater world.

If granted the \$500, I plan to book a shoot with either Jeremy Bustin or Colin Key. Both of these photographers are based in Richmond, and they have actually worked together! Jeremy was recommended to me by fellow Arts Scholar Lydia Newman, and I found Colin’s website through Jeremy’s Facebook page. I plan to consult with Jeremy first and will book him if he has availability before winter break. If he doesn’t, I will then happily consult with and book Colin, as I know he has more availability. Both of these photographers recommend that I have my hair and makeup professionally done at their studio, as they know what will match well with their lighting and will capture the best version of me for the camera. I plan to buy a three look/ three retouch package, as I’d like a few options to choose from and need to build my portfolio. This grant would go towards both the headshots and the hair/makeup

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prep beforehand. As you'll see in my budget, both options exceed \$500 by a little bit, but I will be able to cover the remaining cost comfortably. Here are Colin and Jeremy's websites for reference:

[Colin Key Photography - Business Headshots and Corporate Events](#)

[Home - Jeremy Bustin Photography \(jbustinphoto.com\)](#)

I am grateful for this potential opportunity to build my portfolio as an actress and take an important step in my career. Thank you for considering my proposal!

Prospective Timeline

October 8th: Send in Miller Arts Mini grant proposal by this date.

Mid-October: If awarded a grant, I will find out which photographer is available and book either Jeremy or Colin.

November/ before Fall Semester Ends: I will have professional hair/makeup and headshots done. After I have received the headshots, I will update my resume, portfolio, and maybe start working on a website where these photos will be displayed! I will then send an outcome report to Miller Arts.

Spring Semester and beyond: Use my new headshots to audition for shows and apply to programs.

Budget

Jeremy Bustin:

Package Amount	Total Cost
Basic Studio Session	\$397
Hair and Makeup	\$200
Total	\$597

Colin Key

Package Amount	Total Cost
3 Look / 3 Retouch	\$399
Hair and Makeup	\$150
Total	\$549