

Shooting Analog: 16mm and 8mm Motion Picture Film

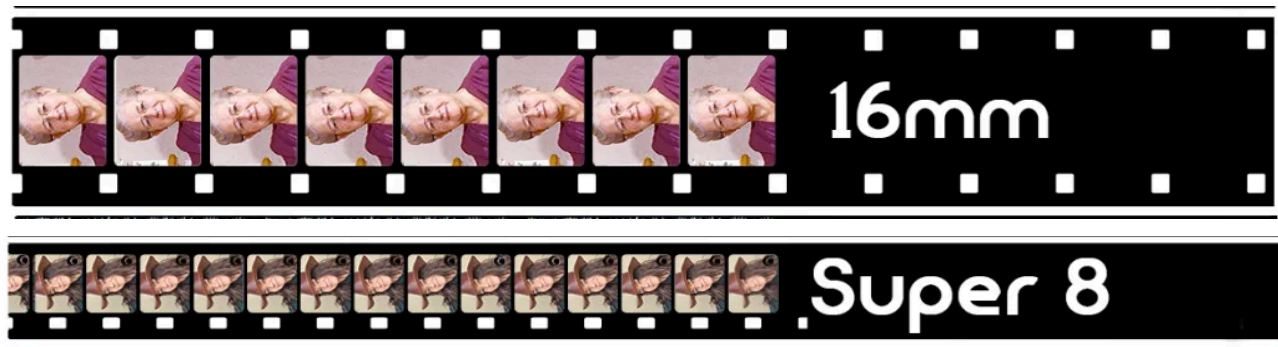
I am requesting a total of \$3,000 to be used for the purchase of both a 16mm and 8mm (Super 8) film camera to use as I progress through the cinematography concentration of my studio art major at UVA.

Introduction

In just a month I will have completed the introductory courses within the cinematography concentration of the studio art department where I learned to shoot on 16mm cameras in both black and white reversal and color negative film. Having never touched a film camera, this provided me with a new, unique experience that changed the way I view and create films. Previously I only had experience with digital cameras, which have their own benefits, but nothing compares to the archival quality of film; “film sees like the human eye,” Kodak writes.

Project

In my third year and fifth semester at UVA, I am set to enroll in Intermediate Cinematography I (ARTS 3370), with plans to continue taking the next sequence of the class each subsequent semester. Though I have the option of shooting on either digital and film, I would love to primarily shoot on film in this class. Since being enrolled in the intro class, I have shot over six rolls of films myself and assisted on a few other film productions. Because the Introduction to Cinematography class *only* shoots on film, there will be heavy use of the art department’s Bolex cameras (our usable 16mm cameras). In order to alleviate the strain of resources on all of the classes and students who wish to shoot on those cameras, I am seeking funding in order to purchase my own personal cameras: one 16mm and one 8mm (Super 8). Currently, the latter option is something the art department doesn’t own. 8mm cameras are far more lightweight and easy to load but the tradeoff lies in the picture quality. Though not as pristine as 16mm, Super 8/8mm has the benefit of being far less expensive, with a roll of film costing just about half as much as its 16mm counterpart.



(image courtesy of somethingdifferent.com)

Because these types of cameras are so old, with most dating back to the 1950s and 1960s, they are hard to find. Also, they are mostly out of commission and require maintenance, CLA (clean, lube, and adjust), and sometimes parts replacement. This then leads to higher costs for cameras which, in their time, were quite affordable and accessible. All of these obstacles seem to beg the question, *why shoot on film?* There are many reasons, but to name a few: it is often cheaper to shoot because of Kodak's deals with Hollywood, it is the superior archival medium (see the quality of Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* made in 1968), and it is a sought after skill for filmmakers to have. Many film programs do not actually teach how to shoot on analog film. When a director or cinematographer chooses to shoot a project in this medium, which is more often than one would expect, a student trained in digital camera work becomes useless. The studio art department at UVA excels in exposing its students to film, thereby enhancing their employability in a competitive field.

My faculty mentor, professor Kevin Everson, director of the Studio Art department, introduced me to film and plans to advise the purchase of these cameras, which is not an easy task to undertake as it requires a lot of research and back-and-forth between sellers. There is always the possibility that any camera purchased might need some repair and professor Everson has experience and contacts with individuals who specialize in the field. I am confident that, within the allocated budget, I will be able to purchase two exceptional and functional cameras that will serve me well not only as a student at UVA but throughout my lifetime and artistic career.

Currently, I am looking at purchasing the Beaulieu R16 16mm and the Nikon R10 Super 8 camera. I have chosen these cameras specifically because they are motorized rather than spring-wound like most of the cameras available to me through the art department. Having access to both of these cameras indefinitely will allow me to explore many creative avenues and will aid in enhancing my skill set. Though this is subject to change, these are the cameras I would use to complete this project. The outcome of such will consist of at least two (2) short films filmed on both 16mm and Super 8 film. These films will be fully digitized and edited for viewing at the outcome presentation next April.

Timeline

Spring 2024: finalize research on exact models of both 16mm and Super 8 cameras, contact sellers and vendors, and seek out any additional materials and parts needed.

Summer 2024: purchase cameras, film stocks, and additional equipment, and test both cameras with one roll each. Then, process and develop both rolls, digitize, and assess the quality making notes for any repairs or maintenance.

Fall 2024: start filming and compiling footage and sound on both cameras for the two short films I plan to present at the outcome presentation. I would plan to send out the rolls to the lab for processing by the end of the semester.

Spring 2025: receive the film and digitize all of the rolls (in the Digital Media Lab). I will then start the color grading and editing process to be finalized by early April where it will be complete and ready to present.

Budget

Miller Arts Scholars Budget, Lucas Piette

Camera Expenditure

<i>Cost of both a 16mm and Super 8 camera (excluding repairs)</i>		
Expenditure item:	Beaulieu R16 (16mm)	\$1,900.00
Expenditure item:	Nikon R10 (Super 8)	\$840.00

Film Stock and Equipment Expenditure

<i>Cost of purchasing various film stocks from Kodak</i>		
Expenditure item:	1 x Kodak Vision3 200T 16mm	\$44.00
Expenditure item:	1 x Kodak Vision3 50D Super 8	\$26.00
Expenditure item:	Processing fees from the lab	\$40.00
Expenditure item:	Extra Accessories/Repairs/Protective Cases (anticipated)	\$150.00
Total		\$3,000.00

Budget Income, Funding, or Other Awards

<i>Include income from private sources, the funding you're asking from Miller Arts Scholars,</i>		
Income item:	MAS Third Year Award	\$3,000.00
Total		\$3,000.00

Note: I am planning on covering the costs for future film costs or any other unanticipated repairs)