

Miller Arts Scholar Grant Proposal
Julian Sanchez – Drama
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Drama Abroad: A Personal Exploration of British Classical Acting Pedagogy

I think that every young artist reaches a turning point in their training in which they must take a step back from their work and have a deep moment of introspection. The necessary questions they must ask themselves include: “Am I consistently challenging myself?” “Is there a way to approach all of this from a different angle?” and “What inspires me to create worthy artwork?”

I find these concepts all too familiar as I enter a similarly pivotal time in my young acting career. Coming to a school like UVA rather than a strict acting conservatory was a very tough decision to make for me. While it’s tremendously valuable for an actor to receive hardcore, comprehensive acting instruction, I’m incredibly thankful for the more broad, liberal arts education I’m receiving. After all, I consider myself first and foremost an engaged citizen of the world; one who seeks knowledge in all fields, rather than someone who limits my knowledge to a specific craft.

I think coming here was a good decision, but it’s one that has certain nonobvious costs. Undergraduates who received a BFA at a conservatory spend more time in the rehearsal room, so they have more time to explore all of the different acting methods in the world. Thus far, I feel like I’ve only been exposed to a very American set of rules.

Therefore, I am proposing to use the Arts Award money to help fund my studies at one of two of Britain’s most esteemed acting institutions: the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA), or the London Academy of Musical and Dramatic Art (LAMDA). I leave the possibilities open between the two because I’m not sure which one I will get into, but I assure you they are both very worthy programs in their own right.

There, from 9:00 in the morning until 6:00 in the afternoon, I will be tirelessly working on my performance technique. The classes at both schools are very similar, as they include movement training, vocal training, scene study, Alexander Technique, combat, acting verse, and monologue selection. I would be afforded the opportunity to work with some of the greatest theatre practitioners in all of England to study the British technique.

This is a particular interest of mine. Not would I go on this trip to further my technical skills, but I also want to take this time to explore a different country’s acting methods from an academic standpoint. Media and literature seem to pit American and British acting techniques against one another, but how different are they really?

I hope to answer just that. This project will culminate in a short research paper exploring the differences and nuances of both the American and British acting methods. I plan on turning my outcome presentation into a performative lecture, much in the style of Ian McKellen’s solo-show *Acting Shakespeare*, in which I explore and demonstrate the different ways in which American and British actors would approach the Bard’s characters by performing some selections.

Anticipated Project Timeline

Summer 2016

- May 13th: Last day of second year at the University
- June/July: When available, work with Richard on selecting monologue pieces for the in-person RADA audition.
- Mid-July: The online applications for both LAMDA and RADA open.

Fall 2016 Semester

- August 23rd: Begin my third year at the University
- August/September: Continue to work with Richard on RADA monologues. He will also be looking over the online portfolio I submit for LAMDA.
- First week of October: Audition in NYC for RADA spring term (LAMDA does not require this type of audition).

Spring 2017 Semester

- First week of January : Classical Acting semester commences
(Classes convene Monday-Saturday from 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM)
- First week of April: Classical Acting semester ends
- April 2017: Presentation of outcome at the Center for Undergraduate Excellence
(I'm currently planning on my presentation be a combination of lecture and performance)
- Mid April: Present outcome at Arts Award Showcase

Proposed Budget

(The expenses of attending both institutions are similar. For the purpose of brevity, I wrote my budget assuming I chose LAMDA)

Expenses	Amount	Details
LAMDA Classical Acting Semester Program Tuition	\$12,474	Excludes the cost of housing, which will be covered by personal contributions*
Online Application Fee	\$30	
Local Transportation	\$200	London Underground, Uber rides, etc.
Meals	\$1800	\$130 per week, for 14 weeks
Expense Subtotal	\$14,504*	

*I did not list an estimate for housing because LAMDA is unusually vague about their housing situation. Per the website: "LAMDA does not have its own on-site student accommodation", but "housing is available upon request... for an additional cost. It is assigned on a first come, first served basis and cannot be guaranteed." I would wager that housing will be a substantial cost, but I'm not comfortable enough putting down a number until more comprehensive information is provided (which would be sent upon my acceptance into the program).

Income	Amount	Details
Arts Scholar Award (Anticipated)	\$2000	
Sydney Elizabeth Owens Memorial Award (Anticipated)	\$5000	
Personal Contribution	\$7,504	
Income Subtotal	\$14,504	
Net Total (Income - Expenses)	\$0	

Budget Details:

- I am applying for more than the maximum award amount (\$2000) in the hopes that my plans to travel abroad will be financially viable.
- In addition to the Miller Arts Award, I am applying for the Sydney Elizabeth Owens Memorial Award (through the Alumni Association), which endeavors to fund a "creative by workable experience that spans a summer or semester".
- My personal contribution is subject to change based on the award money received