

Attending the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art

Project Outcome Report

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Class of 2018

Last fall, I applied for a third year arts award through Millers Scholars to attend the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) in London, England. RADA is one of the most prestigious actor training institutions in all of Europe, with an impressive alumni network that includes Sir Anthony Hopkins, Tom Hiddleston, Alan Rickman, and Kenneth Branagh. My training at RADA ended up being one of the most invaluable parts of my overall academic and artistic journey, and I was fortunate enough to make some of my most dear friends and professional connections in the process.

The class schedule at RADA is deeply rigorous and understandably enriching. At 9:00 AM, my cohorts and I would convene in the rehearsal halls for a group warm-up, and proceed to take classes on vocal technique, movement, singing, Alexander technique, Renaissance poetry, stage combat, clowning, and much more. As a non-Drama major here at UVA, I had never experienced such an intensive atmosphere regarding acting training; many of the classes covered material that I had never even been exposed to. Without RADA, I would not be as well-versed in Shakespeare, I would not have had the chance to revel in expert training, and I would not have been able to get Broadsword certified.

Participating in and watching theatre productions was an integral part of my semester abroad. Personally, I was fortunate enough to work on three shows at RADA under the helm of some incredible directors. I started off the semester in a production of *Titus Andronicus*, appeared in *Julius Caesar* the following month, and finished off the cycle of Shakespearean Roman tragedies with a production of *Coriolanus* in RADA's John Gielgud Theatre. Living in London meant that reasonably cheap tickets to professional shows were readily accessible. In total, I attended 49 live shows over the course of the semester, and I even watched nine filmed productions through the National Theatre's Archive on the South Bank.



Me (pious, in the middle) and my cohorts in classic Renaissance attire.



Celebrating my graduation!

Attending RADA last spring also served a much larger purpose: it reaffirmed the idea that I want to pursue acting as a career. After my experiences in London, I feel reinvigorated in my artistic pursuits, and well supported as I begin the application process to MFA acting programs this year.

This whole, eye-opening journey was only thanks to the University of Virginia's Miller Arts Scholars, as well as the generous donors to this wonderful program. I'd like to give a very special thanks to Sandy and Vinie Miller, and Evie and Stephen Colbert. Without all of these vital support systems, I could never have made these beautiful memories from abroad, the most enriching experience of my time in college.