

Heidi Waldenmaier
Miller Arts Scholars Mini Grant Proposal
September 9th, 2017

Preparation Materials for 2018 Spring Audition Season

All artists require certain specialized, high-quality tools in order to make the creative process efficient and effective. Professional dance shoes are expensive, often need to be fitted at special retailer, and are specific to the technique the dancer is performing. One cannot, for example, use tap shoes to do pointe work. The importance of having a diverse background of training cannot be emphasized enough. In order to be competitive in the dance world, it is not enough to be proficient in only one style of dance. While ballet and modern are essential fundamentals, in musical theater, tap and jazz are equally vital techniques. I am requesting funding to purchase tap shoes, character shoes, and tuition for lessons in both tap and jazz.

My goal is to attend the Spring 2018 Southeastern Theater Conference (SETC) in Mobile, Alabama and audition as a dancer. I have been training in ballet and contemporary for years, but I have had little exposure to the styles that are highly sought by musical theatre companies. Dancers at musical theatre auditions are frequently asked to audition in character shoes as well as perform basic tap combinations. In order to compete against dancers with more training and audition opportunities, I have to diversify my abilities and prove that I am a malleable, versatile choice for hire. Ideally, I will be hired by a company for summer stock work. Summer stock work is an excellent opportunity to gain real industry experience and make connections to other professionals. In addition to preparing for live auditions, I want to remake my dance audition reel (which is out of date) with the additions of work in both character and tap shoes to show versatility. This reel can then be sent to theaters that are too far away to audition for shows in person.

I do not have a part-time job here at school because I believe it is important to focus on my classes and my art. I am happy with this choice; I am already quite busy without the added stress of a job which most likely would not further my long-term career goals. However, this leaves me with only the money I saved during the summer to last me an entire academic year. With the funds from the mini-grant, I could purchase shoes and tuition for classes in order to further my art without having to make major financial sacrifices to do so.

Process:

Objectives: Be able to use tap and character shoes in an audition setting in order to improve my hireability as a dancer.

Significance: I want to work in musical theatre, and this is how professionals do it. They send out reels, go to cattle-call style auditions, and make connections with people working in the industry. I'm going to start early, so I learn quickly from my mistakes and figure out what training is necessary to make myself into a hireable candidate. Shoes and classes are the first step on that journey.

Procedure:

1. Go to The Hip Joint, a dance shoe store on the downtown mall here in Charlottesville, for a fitting. The store carries the brand Capezio, which is a brand that offers plentiful options for shoes.
2. Purchase Tap and Character shoes.
3. Pay tuition for dance classes at The Charlottesville Ballet (2 months, the rest of the semester) and attend classes. These are held every week on Thursday evenings. I will be borrowing my roommate's car and refunding her for the gas.
4. In December, request help from peers in creating choreography for and stylistically filming my dance reel. I will edit it together with performance footage that already exists. I am happy to show this to the arts seminar group in order to demonstrate my progress.

Budget:

Item	Price
Capezio Closed Toe T-Strap Character Shoes	\$250.00
Capezio Flex Master Tap Shoes	\$90.00
Charlottesville Ballet School Tap Classes (2 months, class once per week)	\$120.00
Total:	\$460.00

Note: All prices are approximate. There is a chance that The Hip Joint does not carry the specific type of shoe for which I am requesting funds, so I may have to purchase shoes at a different price. In the case that I have to purchase shoes for less money than listed above, the additional funds will be used to pay for private lessons with the Charlottesville Ballet (\$55 per session). In the case that I have to purchase shoes for more money than listed about, the additional funds will come from my personal account.