

Karen Zipor
Miller Arts Scholars - Minigrant Result
December 18, 2020

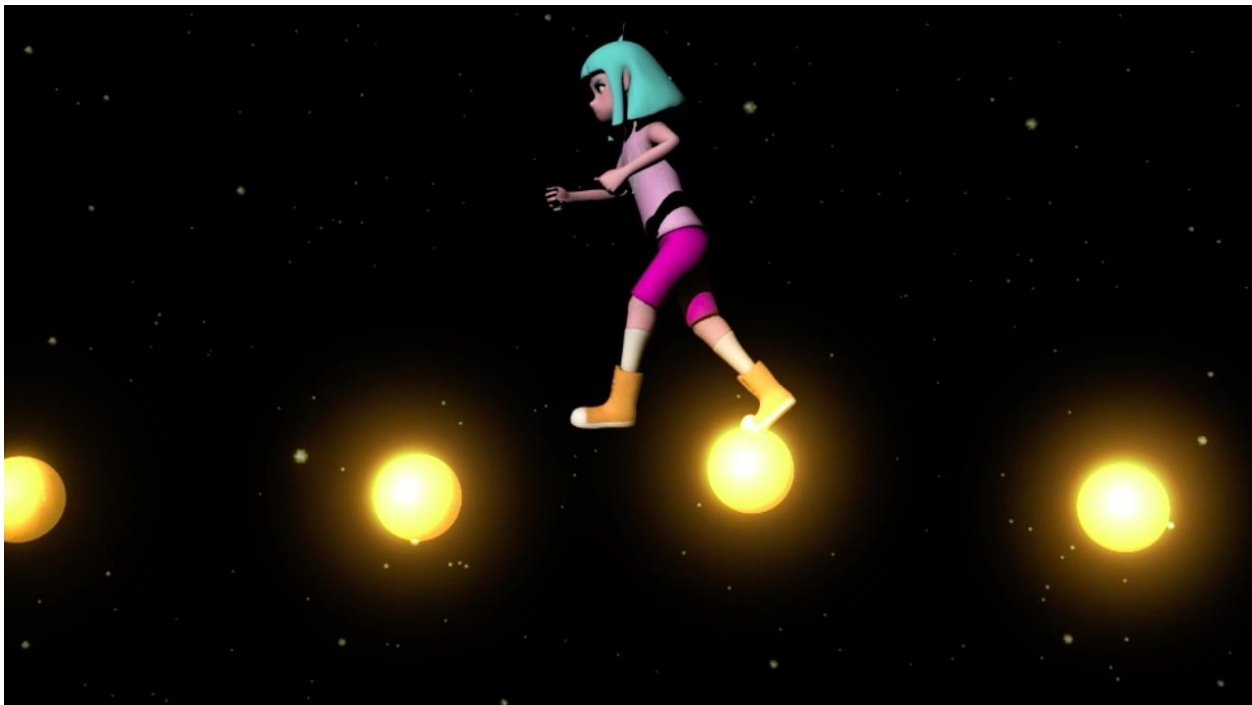
Funding to Submit to Film Festivals

Proposal Outcome:

I'd like to thank the Miller Arts Scholars, as, without their funding, I would not have been able to strengthen my skills as a filmmaker over this semester.

At first, I received funding to cover the application costs of submitting my short film, "All That Grief," to student film festivals. Unfortunately, many film festivals in my specific categories of "Student" or "VR" are closed as of now and Professor Mona Kasra and I are still in the process of researching a cumulative list of festivals to send my film. A portion of the funding I received from this minigrant is still set aside to complete my initial objective.

However, this minor block did not stop me in my pursuit to learn more filmmaking skills and gain the technology I needed to make my next short film. With the grant money, I bought V-Ray, which is a rendering software for Maya. I used V-Ray to render out gorgeous 3D animations for my Computer Animation and Motion class. I was very proud of my final project in the class, and will surely try to submit my project to other film festivals through the "Animation" category. Below is a still from the piece— an animated, fantastical sequence of the main character jumping on stars. Below it, I added other stunning images rendered using V-Ray— as, without this software, I wouldn't have been able to get the realistic shadows and vibrant colors reminiscent of professionally animated work.



A still from the final project of my animation class. Created in Maya.



Stills from other short films I made in the class. Rendered using V-Ray.

In addition, I bought a year of access to Adobe Suite. Premiere Pro and Photoshop were absolutely vital to my success in editing together and scoring my animations. I also used these programs in creating scenes for the UVA Drama Dept's production of *Love and Information*. Without access to these editing programs, I couldn't create such fast-paced, graphic-intense scenes or color-corrected properly (an example seen below).



Still from Love and Information. Actors are Sarah Regan Borucke and Lydia Newman.

Summary:

I still wish to share the personal, 360 short film I made over the summer with the public. However, what I wanted to gain in feedback from film festivals, I still got this past semester in the form of feedback from professors— whether that be from my animation professor or the drama professors in *Love and Information*. I still witnessed other students' work that inspired me, and my technique as a writer, director, and editor profoundly grew. After all, there is no better way to make progress in your craft than hitting the ground running and simply creating.

Budget Outcome:

Expense	Description	Total
V-Ray	Software used for a professional rendering of Maya 3D animation.	\$70
Adobe Suite – Student Discount	1 year of access to Adobe Applications. Included Premiere Pro, Photoshop, & After Effects.	\$239.88
Application Fees	Ranges about \$10-\$50 per film festival. The remaining money is set aside solely for submitting the work I created this past summer and fall semester.	Approx. \$190.12
Total Cost:		\$500