

Rebecca Galt

Project Overview

Project Title: Creation of a Senior Concert through the Exploration of my Choreographic Process

Project Description:

This past semester I presented my first choreographic effort, *Hollowed out*, in the dance program's Spring Dance Concert. My previous grant request and investigations led to the content and creation of this work. I have choreographed many times before but not quite to this scale, where I have personally invested so much of myself both physically and emotionally in the creation and development of a dance piece. I have always enjoyed generating movement, however, this experience has challenged me to find ways to sequence my movement so that it communicates a concept that can then be shared. It has been a very rewarding experience that has helped unearth my desire to further explore my artistic voice.

This grant will help me further discover and expand upon my movement vocabulary so that I can continue to generate innovative movement and find new inspiration for my next choreographic effort. I am requesting funding to attend a dance intensive that will provide me the opportunity to work with emerging and established choreographers so that I can observe their choreographic processes while still experimenting with and investigating my own. In addition to attending a dance intensive, I intend to enroll in an independent study for dance in the fall and spring semesters to work on the concept and creation of a longer work or several related shorter pieces to equal between 20-30 minutes worth of work. In the spring of 2015 I will present my finished work, which will incorporate both live and filmed components, in a student concert during the spring semester with my colleague Erika Choe, a current third-year, interdisciplinary major (Dance, Psychology, and Arts Administration), who will also be producing a longer dance work as a part of her senior thesis.

Since there is currently no major in dance this is a way for me to produce a senior concert. This concert will be an opportunity for me to showcase everything I have learned during my 4 years studying dance here at UVA. In the dance concerts we are limited to creating a piece that is approximately 7 minutes in length. I would appreciate the opportunity to develop a work more extensively by creating a piece that would be approximately 20-30 minutes in length. This is more comparable to the pieces you would find if you were to go see a senior thesis concert within a major program. I also mean to challenge myself by incorporating screen dance alongside live performance dance in attempt to truly integrate both forms of experiencing and presenting dance that I will have studied here. Adding film allows me to control the point of view of those watching and increases the possible number of ways I can approach and convey my concept to the audience.

In *Hollowed out*, I explored the way my dancer's movements and actions kinetically impacted each other, which resulted in one of dancer's emotional and physical shift from the beginning to the end of the piece. This is a theme I would

enjoy further exploring in my next project. I intend to start with a very broad concept for the beginning of my choreographic process, which will then allow me to naturally develop and evolve the theme with my dancers as we experience and create the piece together. It also permits me more flexibility to naturally reshape my concept once I return from the dance intensive with new inspiration and understanding of the choreographic process.

I feel confident in my ability to follow this grant to completion. The classes I have taken through the Dance minor, such as Dance Improvisation and Laban Movement Analysis, have helped me discover my movement style, while allowing me to go out of my comfort zone and investigate movement that is unfamiliar to me. I have choreographed a piece for the Spring Dance Concert along with other choreographic endeavors and will be taking the Dance for Camera course in the spring of my 4th year. I have also participated in a number of dance for camera projects, so even though at this time I have yet to create my own dance for camera work, I already have a general understanding of some of the various components that go into directing, choreographing, and editing a dance film. The dance for camera course I will be taking next year will teach me the skills I need to know to create a dance for camera piece on my own. My advisor has also completed multiple stand-alone dance for camera works and has experience integrating live dance with video and is willing to give me feedback and guidance when necessary.

The dance intensive I am currently interested in attending is during winter break (Dec. 28- Jan. 5), and is called the American Dance Festival. Classes will be offered in modern technique, repertory, composition, and improvisation. There is also an opportunity for student showings during the intensive, to show my work and receive feedback from faculty and other students. This intensive goes hand in hand with the rest of my grant because the choreographers I will be working with at this intensive rely on their dancer's active involvement in the choreographic process. Thus, even though I will not be the choreographer, I will play a part in generating the movement and developing the pieces in which I perform. I will also have the opportunity to observe how professional choreographers create pieces in collaboration with their dancers. It is not an intensive where the dance works are already set and simply restaged, but rather I will have the chance to work with choreographers in the production of a dance piece. I have participated in three guest artist residencies here on grounds, and I have found that interacting with these professionals has provided me valuable insight into how to successfully approach movement and work with dancers. As a result, I believe that participating in this intensive and all that it has to offer will further enable me as a choreographer.

The different components of this grant will help me discover my artistic voice by challenging me to create a more extensive work that highlights my growth as a choreographer and artist.

Timeline:

This summer I will begin to develop different concepts/themes that I find rich and worthy of further exploration in a longer work. In the fall semester I will enroll in an independent study in choreography where I will continue to work on

my concept and begin choreographing. I plan on choreographing for the Fall Experimental Dance Concert, where I will first test my concept by creating a shorter piece beginning to flesh out my ideas for my longer piece in the spring. Around this time I will also apply for the Spring Lab Series Program and finalize other logistics, such as location, lighting designer, and stage manager, etc. During winter break I will attend the American Dance Festival and come back with new ways to formulate movement and organize my piece. Spring semester I plan on expanding upon the piece I created in the fall and finishing it by early March. There is the prospect that I may show an excerpt of my dance in the Spring Dance Concert. I also plan on doing most of the filming during the spring semester. I aim to finish the storyboard in late February, finish filming by mid-March, and begin the editing process so that the film is complete by early April. The concert will most likely be after the Spring Dance Concert in late April.

Budget:

American Dance Festival Winter Intensive (Dec. 28-Jan.5)	
Intensive Cost.....	\$785
Airfare to NY.....	\$350
Transportation.....	\$120 (train from CT)
Living expenses.....	\$60 (stay with family in CT)
Production Costs	
Costumes (\$50 per dancer).....	\$300
Publicity (40 color fliers, 4 posters)...	\$40
Lighting designer, stage director.....	\$200
Film	
Camera (Refurbished Canon 7D).....	\$1,250
Editing assistance.....	\$125
Total.....	\$3,230

Tuition cost for the American Dance Festival Winter Intensive includes all classes, workshops, open rehearsals, panels, and performance tickets. I will be staying with family members that live in Connecticut, which means I will be taking the train into the city everyday that week and can purchase a 7-day ticket from Stamford, CT to Grand Central Station, NYC. I will have few living expenses since I will be housing with my family, however, I will need some money for metro passes to travel within the city and for food during the afternoons.

Erika and I will apply for the Spring 2015 Lab Series, which is sponsored by the U.Va. Department of Drama and the Virginia Players. If we are selected for the Lab Series we will be able to hold our concert in the Helms Theater, which means we will need funding to help cover productions costs: a lighting designer, stage director, costumes, someone to work the call board. Because spring is a hectic time and the students we are likely to enlist will also be busy with other productions, we would like to be able to pay our production staff, which I why I allocated at least \$200 for that purpose. I am also budgeting out \$40 to print posters and fliers to help publicize the concert, and am asking for \$50 per dancer to spend on costumes (I plan on having 4-6 dancers).

The rest of my costs are for the film component of my piece. I need a camera that can capture high-quality footage. Based on online research and word of mouth the best camera within my budget is a refurbished Canon EOS 7D, which is approximately \$1300. My advisor, Kim Brooks Mata, used this camera last summer at a dance for camera festival and confirmed that the footage obtained was of very nice quality. I was looking into possibly using the cameras offered in the Clemon's Media Lab, however, for the number of hours I will need to use them for filming and the limited amount of time they are available to check-out to the public it does not seem feasible for this type of project. I plan on doing all the filming and editing by myself with the help of some other dance students who have taken dance for camera, but additional help may be needed by a professional in the editing process for color correction etc., for which I would like to set aside \$125.

If we are not selected to be a part of the VA Player's Lab Series, our contingency plan is to rent a space either on or off-grounds that is large enough to not constraint the choreography. Some examples include the O'Hill Forum, Newcomb Ballroom, and the Student Activities Building. However, a theater stage would be ideal because it would allow us to design our lighting, which would produce a more professional show. It is also safer for our dancers to dance on a stage because of the sprung floors.

Examples of Work:

1. <https://virginia.box.com/Hollowedout2014> (length 7:28)

I choreographed this piece for the 2014 U.Va. Spring Dance Concert. My previous grant request and investigations led to the content and creation of this piece.

3. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3eCcOGtwyU&feature=youtu.be>

(length 1:48)

This video consists of excerpts from Kim Brooks Mata's piece *Shatter Proof*. I am the soloist dancer who starts on the ground.

Evidence of Participation in the Arts

My involvement in the arts within the University of Virginia has played a prominent role in my college experience. Being selected as a College Art Scholar for dance my incoming year convinced me to get involved in the dance program right away. My experience with the dance program here has been extremely positive and being a part of the art scholars program has given me a passion and appreciation for all art forms.

I am a Dance minor, and I have participated in the dance concert every semester since my first year, where I have had the pleasure of working with faculty, guest choreographers, and fellow students. The dance program here does not exclusively concentrate on the technical and performance aspects of dance but rather focuses on creating a well-rounded, educated dancer. I have taken Modern II, Dance Improvisation, Dance Production, Jazz II, Laban Movement Analysis, and Dance Repertory, and I have gained valuable information in each class that is not only helping me improve as a dancer but also as a student, individual, and scholar. Besides the dance concerts, I have attended and performed in the American College Dance Festival every year I have been here, and I have participated in other performances on and off-grounds, such as the TechnoSonic Concert, a collaborative performance involving the dance and music departments, the Tom Tom Founders Festival, and Final Fridays at the Fralin. I am also a member of the Virginia Dance Company and have performed in every one of their semester shows.

I received the Arts Scholars Arts Award in the fall semester, and I am still in the process of studying how to adapt a dance class for individuals with Parkinson's disease and other movement disabilities. The research I have conducted during this grant served as the inspiration for the piece I choreographed in this past Spring Dance Concert titled *Hollowed out*. I was assistant choreographer for First Year Players production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and co-choreographer for Spectrum Theater's production of *Arabian Nights*. I have also choreographed and performed a dance solo in the arts scholar's lab series, which was accompanied by two flutists.

I am a member of the Student Council's Arts Committee where I serve as an advocate for the arts around grounds. Some of our committee's initiatives include putting up student artwork in Clemons Library, instigating community outreach through the arts, funding individual art projects, bringing together art related CIOs, and planning the Arts Madness Festival in the spring. I am also the treasurer of dance committee, which is the CIO that helps support the dance minor, and I have a true desire to see the dance minor continue to grow.

I have been enrolled in two semesters of the Art Scholars seminar, but I have consistently attended all other semesters for no credit, and I am currently the dance representative for the arts scholars. I am very appreciative of all the opportunities that being an art scholar have provided me and excited to continue to be involved in the program next year.