

**Project Title: *One-Week Intensive at the New York Film Academy***

This time last year, I was applying for a rising third-year Arts Award to attend the summer acting intensive at Michael Howard Studios in New York City. I was also planning my study abroad at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom and looking forward to a year of theatrical training at an institution recognized for its top-ranked drama department. The first of these endeavors was an invaluable experience. The six weeks I spent studying and training at Michael Howard Studios were immensely challenging and allowed me to expand my abilities and interests as an actor. The most important aspect of my time at Michael Howard was that I was exposed to new techniques and mediums for acting. Among the courses taught were Alexander Technique, Clown, Animal (an exploration of movement), and a brief introduction to acting on-camera. I had never considered acting for film or television, instead focusing my efforts on the theatre. But the limited exposure to acting for the camera that I experienced while at Michael Howard completely changed my mindset toward the medium. I left the program with the desire to further pursue this particular avenue of training.

Unfortunately, the University of Virginia does not offer an acting for film class in the drama department catalogue. The only exception I know of is an independent study sometimes supervised by Richard Warner, though I have only heard of one student pursuing this course of study. The same is true for the University of Birmingham. This lack is not uncommon – many undergraduate drama departments likewise offer little to no instruction in acting for the camera. For this reason, I am proposing a project that will allow me to attend a one-week intensive film-acting workshop at the New York Film Academy. The NYFA is recognized as one of the top film schools in the country and offers a variety of workshops, short courses and conservatory programs. The one-week acting for film workshop is an introductory course on the basics of acting on-camera, focusing on filmed scene study and audition technique classes and exposing students to the technical realities of working on a film set. In reality, the workshop is only five days (Monday-Friday), but this short introduction to the medium is exactly what I need to decide whether or not I would like to pursue further study in this vein of acting. I have chosen to attend the one-week NYFA workshop scheduled for January 9 – 14, 2017.

Additionally, I would like to use the skills I will gain from this workshop by beginning the process of creating an acting reel. A professionally produced and edited reel is an essential tool for every film actor, as it acts like a supplementary visual résumé – it is the first thing that a director or studio sees and often determines whether or not you are asked to audition for a part. I plan to work with an acting reel production company in New York City to produce a short, filmed scene that I can use to start building my reel. I have contacted Showreels NYC and made a provisional booking for March 8, 2017 (because this date is more than a year away, they can't confirm until the end of 2016). To prepare for this experience – in addition to the NYFA workshop – I will be working with a professional coach over the course of the fall and early spring semesters. My advisor for this project, David Dalton, has offered to help me contact a suitable private mentor when I return from my study abroad. This project is an ambitious undertaking, so I am applying for the full rising fourth-year Arts Award amount of \$3000 to cover all my anticipated expenses for these two trips to New York City, including the

NYFA tuition, the acting reel package price, private coaching, transportation, food, and other necessary expenses.

Acting for film is a type of performance that I am almost completely unfamiliar with. The technique is very different to acting for theatre, and requires an additional set of skills that I've had little chance to develop. My exposure thus far in acting for the camera has made me very eager to further explore this medium, and I think it's necessary for any actor to be familiar with both theater and film. In my outcome presentation for this project, I will focus on identifying the differences between performing for theatre and film and how both have influenced my personal approach to acting. I will also present the result of my collaboration with Showreels NYC. As an actor hoping to pursue my art as a career, I think it is important to familiarize myself with as many kinds of acting as I can so that I will enter the business as informed and experienced as possible.

### Anticipated Timeline

January 8, 2017 – Travel to New York City via Amtrak.

January 9 – 14, 2017 – Attend the New York Film Academy’s one-week intensive workshop.

January 15, 2017 – Return to Charlottesville via Amtrak.

March 6, 2017 – Travel to New York City via Amtrak.

March 8, 2017 – Shoot filmed scene with Showreels NYC.

March 10, 2017 – Return to Charlottesville via Amtrak.

April 2017 – Present my report at the Arts Scholars Arts Awards Outcome Presentation event.

### Proposed Budget

Expenses	Amount	Detail
NYFA Tuition	\$1,100	One-week intensive film acting workshop
Showreels NYC Session	\$650	Will consist of a 1-2 minute monologue
Materials for Showreel	\$60	Costume, make-up, props, etc.
Preparation for Showreel	\$440	Study with a professional local or regional coach
Housing	\$0	Staying with a family friend
Travel to/from New York	\$330	2 round-trip Amtrak tickets
Local Transportation	\$70	2 x 7-day unlimited NYC Metrocards
Meals	\$300	All meals for two (separate) weeks
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$50	Class supplies and unexpected expenses
<b>Expense subtotal</b>	<b>\$3000</b>	

Income	Amount	Detail
College Arts Scholars Arts Award (Anticipated)	\$3000	
Personal Contribution	\$0	
<b>Income subtotal</b>	<b>\$3000</b>	
<b>Net Total (Income – Expenses)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

### Budget Justification

- I am applying for just enough money to cover all anticipated expenses associated with two weeks in New York City, the film-acting workshop at the New York Film Academy and the session with Showreels NYC.
- I will adjust my personal contribution depending on the amount I receive for this award.