

Kacie Iuvara

Theory to Practice Grant Proposal
“From Stage to Screen in London”

Objectives:

This project would provide me with the exceptional opportunity to train for a career in film acting at one of the top acting schools in the world. Where Ohio Wesleyan gives theatre students a multitude of occasions to perform onstage, there is little chance for those of us who wish to pursue a career in the film industry to gain skill and experience in front of a camera rather than a live audience. These two styles of acting are surprisingly different, as one caters to a close camera and the other a distant crowd. OWU’s acting program provides valuable technical skill, yet I believe that my learning would greatly benefit from a program focused specifically on film acting, which I am highly unexperienced with. What is more, this opportunity would allow me to create crucial contacts in the film world, which would extend to the entire OWU community. This project would offer me the invaluable chance to study and educate others in a style of acting that I am not accustomed to, one not taught at Ohio Wesleyan, and one that I and many of my peers plan on pursuing as our careers.

Description:

For this project, I would have the opportunity to attend two two-week long training sessions at the unparalleled London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA), an enormously reputable university known for educating film stars such as Benedict Cumberbatch, Jim Broadbent, and Sam Claflin. These courses would provide no university credit. The

application process consisted of a submission of my resume, which has already been evaluated and accepted. I have also been in correspondence with Hannah Hurt, a LAMDA admissions officer, via email. The program itineraries are sent in late February, detailing the exact schedule of the two sessions.

The travel experience itself would commence with a plane ride on the 16th of July. My current passport will be valid until late 2017. The first course begins on July 18th, meaning I would have two days to familiarize myself with the school and my housing environment. As LAMDA is a university, their facilities are not available during the summer and I would stay instead at the Abercorn House Hostel, which is .3 miles from the school, walking distance. Then, on the 18th, the first session would begin: Audition Technique.

This unique course gives students the opportunity to hone their skills during what is arguably the most crucial step in the acting career. The first program spans from July 18th through the 29th, during which students learn vocal techniques and physical exercises to support audition preparation specific to film. We would rehearse monologues and scenes on camera to develop screen acting technique and create a sense of ease in this environment. I have never experienced a film audition; doing so would provide me with massive amounts of new knowledge. The course culminates in a day of mock auditions, where we would sight read, monologue, and perform scenes in front of a camera.

The second course, Introduction to Screen Acting, is also two weeks, and its content is just as enlightening as the first session, if not more. Moving past the audition process, the class would work with a professional director, learning how to interpret a screenplay and develop credible characters. This course is enormously beneficial in that it also includes contributions

from visiting professionals in this field. Students would gain the skills of devising material and practicing continuity techniques, and develop onscreen confidence by watching ourselves on a monitor. This acting form is opposite that of the stage in that all actions and expressions must be much subtler and far more realistic. As I have yet to perform in this style, learning to do so would be critical to my future success. The course also covers the actor's relationship to post-production elements of film making such as editing and sound. Students' work is screened at the end of the two weeks, but unfortunately is property of LAMDA and therefore not available for public viewing. This course spans from August 1st through the 12th. The following weekend, on the 13th, I would fly back to the United States.

Evaluation, Assessment, and Sharing:

To evaluate the effectiveness of this project, I would record a monologue before and after the two sessions, to highlight my changes and new knowledge. Every evening, I would also record a video diary, detailing the techniques, critiques, ideas, etc. learned in class that day. This is accepted by LAMDA. Doing so, I would be able to revisit my lessons later and refresh this pivotal information.

To publicize my findings to the OWU community, I would post every recording on a Wordpress blog, allowing all students and faculty to learn from my discoveries. In particular, the myriad of theatre students who aspire to enter the film industry would be able to apply my findings to their own training and eventual professions. What is more, the blog would be advertised to theatre professors such as Ed Kahn and Elane Denny-Todd, who teach acting and direct OWU's productions. I would also contact professors outside of the department, such as

Professors Hipsky and Carpenter, who teach film courses. Thus, the entire OWU campus, specifically those with an interest in acting and film, would have access to knowledge that they could utilize in classes, performances, and future careers.

Furthermore, I would host a talkback session at Chappellear Drama Center at the start of Fall Semester 2016, open to all students and faculty. There, I would show the monologues and my most enlightening videos, and discuss my discoveries.

Personal Statement:

Though these sessions would be far different than any lessons I have ever experienced, I would not be totally unprepared. During my sophomore year of high school I participated in two 8-week intensives devoted to film acting at the Ohio Theatre, and in the following two years I performed in every high school play and musical. This training has been greatly advanced during my nearly four semesters at Ohio Wesleyan. I have taken Beginning Acting and am currently in Acting Workshop 1. I have performed in “One Acts: 2015,” “Actions that a (Wo)man Might Play,” *Arcadia*, *Urinetown*, *Kindertransport*, “One Acts: 2014,” *The Merchant of Venice*, and “Freshman Scenes: 2014” thus far, as well as read a staged reading of Professor Bonnie Gardner’s play, also titled “Actions that a (Wo)man Might Play.” These experiences in particular have helped me cultivate my overall acting skill, providing me with the basic principles that every actor, film and stage alike, must understand and utilize to perform. No doubt I have advanced at OWU, but now I wish to go further with my training. I am ready for the next step in accomplishing my dream career, and I feel that, with OWU’s help, LAMDA has the potential to be just that.

This project is immensely important to me. Training programs devoted specifically to film are few and far between, and experiencing not one but two sessions at a university as pivotal in this field as LAMDA could be the foundation of my film career. By gaining the skills and confidence to audition and perform in front of a camera, as well as a more solid understanding of the film acting business itself, I would be exponentially more prepared for life after college. This incredible chance would lift me closer to my lifelong goal of acting onscreen, which, unfortunately, is an incredibly hard business to break into. What is more, my peers would have the opportunity to utilize what I have learned in their futures, whether as performers or instructors.

Additionally, this project would allow me to begin networking in this field by creating personal contacts such as Hannah Hurt and the professional acting coaches and directors employed by LAMDA, not to mention students from around the world whose career goals mirror my own. To have contacts in the film acting world is, besides bettering one's acting skill, the absolute best way to turn this career goal into a lifelong reality. These contacts would not only be mine, but extend to every student in the OWU community. Those who share my career aspirations would now have a means of networking themselves through my experience, potentially aiding them in their future success. Therefore, the chance to establish such connections would be irreplaceable in terms of its impact on my peers and I, and could mean the difference between a successful career and a more difficult life after college.

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Project Budget
"From Stage to Screen in London"

Type of Funding	Specific Details	Cost	Additional Details
Program	LAMDA Audition Class	\$1310 (£898)	
Program	LAMDA Film Acting Class	\$1824 (£1250)	
Transportation	Plane Tickets, Round Trip	\$2000 (£1372)	Company: Delta Airways
Transportation	Ground Transportation	\$100 (£69)	Taxi/Shuttle to and from airport.
Residency	Abercorn House Hostel, London, England	\$1015 (£697)	Abercorn is .3 miles from LAMDA campus and \$35 per night.
Food	Food Not Provided by LAMDA	\$700 (£480)	\$25 (£17) per day
Insurance	Out of Country Travel Insurance	\$40 (£28)	\$10 (£7) per week
Documentation	Student VISA	\$123 (£85)	
Incidentals	Emergency Funds	\$200 (£138)	
			Total Cost:
			\$7312 (£5041)