

# Grant Proposal

## **“The Trilogy of Feminine Mystique” Film Project**

This semester, the executive members of the Filmmakers Society have decided to make a collaborative horror film in three acts, inspired by Central Virginian folklore and ghost stories. It will be in the vein of an exquisite corpse style project— à la *Paris, Je T'aime* or *New York, I Love You*. I'm heading up the team for the first act of the film, a story that will take place during the Civil War. In brief, it is about a lower-class, young bride named Lizzie Rowland whose husband leaves to join the Confederacy shortly after she becomes pregnant. Left all alone in the house, Lizzie loses the child and, consequentially, her mind. The film will show her become increasingly paranoid and delusional, leading up to her injuring her midwife and accidentally stabbing her husband upon his return. Our goal for this project is to make a truly frightening psychodrama while paying homage to the rich history of Central Virginia. The idea is feasible—it only involves one house and a few characters—but it will still be difficult to make it come alive. We will need to find a great location, costumes, actors, and a good eye to make it realistic. On a personal level, I think it will help me to hone my skills in directing and cinematography and gain confidence in myself as a filmmaker.

The Filmmakers Society owns two digital SLR cameras and sufficient sound and light equipment. However, all three groups will need to use this equipment for their respective parts of the project. With the Arts Award, I would purchase some personal equipment to help my group complete this project, as well as future film projects of my own. I would like to purchase a Canon EOS Rebel T5i Digital SLR camera, a telephoto lens, and a TASCAM audio recorder. We plan to shoot the film entirely this semester and finishing editing and scoring in March. By April 1<sup>st</sup>, the film should be completed and ready to present to the Art Scholars and the Center for Undergraduate Excellence. We will most likely also show it at the Virginia Student Film Festival that the Filmmakers Society puts on in the Spring at UVa. In addition, with this equipment I would like to create several smaller, personal projects to add to my portfolio by April. Finally, I will write an artist's statement for my work created with this equipment. I plan to pursue filmmaking in some capacity and may apply to film schools after graduation, in which case a well-shot portfolio will be essential.

We currently have a first rough draft of the script, and the deadline for a final version is the next Filmmakers Society meeting on Tuesday, October 22nd. Ideally, our first shoot will be the weekend that follows. In total, we will need to allot about 20 hours of shooting for this five- or six-minute film. Because we are still in the process of pre-production, we don't yet have a production calendar; however, this

will be crucial to carry out the production efficiently. I would like to have all locations and actors locked in place by October 22<sup>nd</sup> in addition to the completed script. Shoots will generally occur Tuesday nights, Fridays and Saturdays.

Since I would like to buy 3 pieces of equipment, my budget is fairly straightforward with a total of \$1,050. I will make my purchases on Amazon.com, unless I can find a better deal somewhere else. This is a rough outline of how I hope to use these funds:

1. Canon EOS Rebel T5i DSLR camera — \$800  
(<http://shop.usa.canon.com/shop/en/catalog/cameras/eos-cameras/eos-rebel-t5i-18-55mm-is-stm-lens-kit>)
2. Telephoto lens, also made by Canon — \$100  
([http://www.amazon.com/Canon-55-250mm-4-0-5-6-Telephoto-Digital/dp/B0011NVM08/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1381523052&sr=8-1&keywords=canon+telephoto+lens](http://www.amazon.com/Canon-55-250mm-4-0-5-6-Telephoto-Digital/dp/B0011NVM08/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1381523052&sr=8-1&keywords=canon+telephoto+lens))
3. TASCAM DR-05 Portable Digital Recorder— \$150  
([http://www.amazon.com/TASCAM-DR-05-Portable-Digital-Recorder/dp/B0040A6JW0/ref=sr\\_1\\_9?ie=UTF8&qid=1381522980&sr=8-9&keywords=zoom+microphone](http://www.amazon.com/TASCAM-DR-05-Portable-Digital-Recorder/dp/B0040A6JW0/ref=sr_1_9?ie=UTF8&qid=1381522980&sr=8-9&keywords=zoom+microphone))

## My Participation in the Arts

In my time at UVa, I have continued to pursue my love for acting *and* discovered a passion for filmmaking and directing. In the drama department, I have mostly taken several acting classes— Acting I, Acting II, Auditioning, and Musical Theatre Performance. I have taken Script Analysis as well. In the department, I also plan to take Acting III, Voice for Theater, Dance Theatre, Contact Improvisation, Theatre History, Lighting Design, Directing, and Image to Form. In terms of productions, I've been involved in First Year Players, Shakespeare on the Lawn, and the Reckless Theatre Company. With the department, I was in *Rhinoceros* and a devised work entitled *Empty Cups*. I was costume crew for *Romeo and Juliet* as well. I'm currently sinking my teeth into a Lab Series and Reckless Theatre Company production of a contemporary two-person play called *Lungs*. This is perhaps the most exciting play I've ever worked on, and challenging! I'm playing opposite a fellow art scholar, Christian Selassie, to bring this beautifully written, mind-bending script to life.

I'm really enjoying Kevin Everson's Cinematography I class and will continue to take Cinematography through my fourth year. I have also taken Cinema as an Art Form, and I hope I can take more film studies classes while I'm at UVa. The majority of my learning as a filmmaker has been with the Filmmakers Society. We make a short film every semester as a club, put on the Virginia Student Film Festival in the spring, conduct filmmaking workshops and help each other with our own side projects. This is my second year serving as an executive member, first as Social Media Chair and now, Vice President. Additionally, I was on a team for the Virginia Film Festival's Adrenaline Film Project in 2011.

With Art Scholars, I was in the seminar every semester until this one—I still enjoy coming when I can, however. Last winter, I interned for Claude Wampler and traveled to New York to help put her performance art piece up. I've also been consistently in touch with April Ballard, who came to speak to us looking for Art Scholars to partner with the Center for Global Health's for art and health-related project in Kigali, Rwanda—a fantastic opportunity that is right up my alley. Hopefully, I will go to Rwanda this summer with a few other Art Scholars and representatives from the Center for Global Health in order to shoot a documentary about the intersection between art and health. For the Lab Series, I will perform a scene from *Lungs* with Christian. In general, I think I'm really starting to come into my own as an artist here at UVa, and I hope to learn and create as much as possible in my final two years.