

Explanation of Activities

We are requesting funds for materials and access to research to make our LA showcase as successful as possible. The LA showcase (May 1-May 4 2022) acts as the capstone project for the MFA Performance cohort and is required for graduation. Each of us will be performing in the showcase in the hope that we will be signed by an agent or manager as a result of those performances. We have developed this showcase as a group and will be performing with and alongside each other. We are each other's scene partners as well as the technical crew for the performance. This showcase is truly a group effort. The Theatre department is covering our housing and transportation costs, but additional funds are still needed for the materials, portfolios, and knowledge that the agents and managers attending will expect to see from us.

Agent and/or manager representation is required in order to work in our industry—it is impossible to get quality auditions or sign contracts without them. A successful showcase that results in representation for all of us is our first step towards success as we exit our program, and gives us the best opportunity to succeed in our personal journeys, as well as increase the visibility and standing of the UNLV Theatre program as alumni.

Headshots are one of the most important tools for an actor when presenting themselves to agents and casting directors. A headshot is much more than just a picture—it is your portfolio, marketing, and your first impression. Agents and casting directors need to see you as the characters that you are going to play in your career. This is also why multiple looks and different headshots are necessary—an actor cannot use the same headshot for drama, comedy, and commercial work. We are asking for funds to book a session with Stephanie Girard in Los Angeles. She is competitively priced within the headshot market in LA and comes recommended by Professor Nate Bynum, who uses her for his own headshots. Additionally, she is an alumni of UNLV and a classmate of Professor Sean Boyd. Her fee also includes a career consultation to make sure that our headshots are selling the image that we want to market as well as a professional hair and make-up artist to ensure that we look our best.

Agents and managers will also expect to see our online presence after meeting us. A professional website is also expected, and acts as a portfolio and marketing tool for an actor. Interested agents and managers will ask for our websites in order to see additional headshots and production photos, videos of our work in film, television, and stand up comedy, writing samples, voice over samples, and full CVs.

Additionally, as the audition industry has almost exclusively moved to self taping at home since Covid-19, the agents and managers we will be meeting with will want to know what kind of equipment that we have at home to produce professional quality auditions. They may request that we tape an audition and send it to them before officially representing us. Good lighting and a neutral background are the standard expectations for the industry and a quality self tape kit will provide those materials for each of us. A microphone and headphones for voice over work will also give all of us another avenue for representation. Voice over work is a very lucrative industry and all of us have trained in the craft of voice over.. Similarly to the self tape equipment, agents and managers will want to know what equipment we have at home and may request a sample

audition to evaluate our ability and knowledge. Without this equipment, we will not be able to succeed in signing with an agent or manager.

We are also requesting funds for access to the websites IMDB Pro, Actors Access, and DirectSubmit. In the acting world, these publications act as our research and academic journals. They are the **only** way to access information about the agents, managers, and casting directors that will be attending our showcase, as well as what connections they have, who they already represent, and what projects they are currently working on or have upcoming. This information is vital once we reach the interview stage of the showcase. These websites also are mandatory for the industry as they include the ability to submit to projects. Agents will expect us to already be signed up with active profiles and will ask to see our profiles on these websites if they are interested in signing us. There is no comparative pricing for these publications, as they are each their own singular entity with no comparable alternative.

Finally, we are asking for funding to go as a group to see *Twilight, Los Angeles 1992* at the Mark Taper Forum. Agents and managers expect their actors to have a finger on the pulse of the theatre and film work going on in the city and to be familiar with the major playhouses, season selections, and casting available to us. When we go into meetings with agents and managers at our showcase, we need to be able to talk about what is currently playing on stages, as well as what roles in those plays that we could see ourselves in. The Mark Taper Forum is one of the premiere playhouses in Los Angeles, as well as the only one to have an active play happening while we are there (the other playhouses will be transitioning between shows during that week). The only other comparable theatre with a show would be the Pantages, but it will be closing night of *The Lion King*, the play is sold out, and resale tickets are going for over \$300. We are asking for the mid-tier \$65 tickets as it will allow us all to sit together instead of being separated throughout the theatre.

In our industry, agents and managers are the keys to a successful career. It is nearly impossible to obtain meaningful work without them. For them, we are their source of income and success. An agent or manager takes a percentage of an actor's contracts—they only get paid if we work. Due to this dynamic, it is imperative that we come to Los Angeles with all of the tools, materials, resources, and research of a working professional. Agents and managers are unwilling to take a chance on someone who they don't believe is already a working professional at the moment they meet them. UNLV has given us the training and opportunities that we need to take the next step and we are hoping that the GPSA will be willing to help us fill in the missing pieces.

The connections we make could also greatly impact our future careers. This experience is valuable to UNLV and the GPSA, as it makes the program more attractive to future students. It helps with reentry into the professional world, and gives each student networking opportunities we wouldn't otherwise have. This showcase also gives us experience in the real world, which we can then share with our students here as well.

Thank you for your consideration.