

Opportunity Grant Proposal

Myra Roberts

Dear Undergraduate Research Committee:

Myself, Theo Muehr, and Brooklyn Rice are seeking out this Opportunity Grant for the once-in-a-lifetime chance to go see a play that we are actively studying in a live Broadway production, Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. As the three of us are all 3rd-year Theatre majors, we are currently working on our Junior Qualifying Papers through our Junior Seminar class, and the play that we have been assigned to study for this entire semester is *Waiting for Godot*. The department picked this play for us to deeply research and use to prepare for our theses long before it was announced that this play was coming to Broadway, and so this is really an unprecedented opportunity for us to see a live production of that the play we will be spending over 6 months writing about, something that will never come around ever again.

My focus on this trip will be studying *Waiting for Godot's* expressions of existentialism and helplessness, and how they can teach us about feelings of frustration and futility in our own lives, especially in today's socioeconomic climate. This is not just the topic that I am going to be expounding upon throughout my Junior Seminar class, but the work and skills and techniques that I learn from applying this research is going to be extremely invaluable when it comes time for me to write my Thesis next year. I have already been researching and writing about this play for several months, but just by the nature of theatre and performance art, there is only so much I can learn just from reading about historical productions or watching the few snippets of video accessible online. A play is inherently more than just its text or its critical reviews can ever convey, no journalist can ever capture all of the nuances of how every line is delivered and all of the thousands of creative decisions that combine to create the theatrical experience, and that is what the core of our Junior Seminar class is about. And so when I heard that *Godot* was going to be running on Broadway, on one of the most prestigious stages in the world, at the perfect time for me to incorporate it into my research and bolster my Junior Qualifying Exam, I knew that I had to do everything that I could to take it.

This is the second time that Theo, Brooklyn and I are applying for this Opportunity Grant, as we already applied and were rejected previously in October. This came as a massive setback for all of us, as I cannot understate how much of a unique and fleeting opportunity this is for the three of us to see this play in person, and so we knew that we had to try again for this round. This is the last chance we will ever get to do this, as if we don't get this grant there will be no more time to see the play before our Qualifying Exams are due, and we will have to submit them without the crucial insights we could have gained from this opportunity. We have worked for the last month to improve our application in the hopes that you will reconsider your previous decision, and allow us to take this once-in-a-lifetime chance that we have been given. Thank you for your time.