

While pursuing an MFA in Acting at Michigan State, I took on two secondary focuses that specialize in clown and solo performance. For the past two summers, I have completed clown training at The Clown School in Los Angeles, CA and Dell'Arte International in Blue Lake, CA. With clown training, I was able to begin embracing failure as an artistic partner to learn from rather than be disappointed in. I was also able to fully give way to a sense of play in my process. In addition to clowning, I've also taught a solo performance class at MSU and performed a scripted one-person show in the fall of 2023. The class was focused on teaching undergrads the explorative process and building of a one-person show. Each student presented an original 10-minute piece by the end of the semester. A few semesters later, I performed *An Iliad* which is a one-person telling of The Iliad where I played multiple characters from the epic story in addition to a storyteller weaving the overall tale for the audience.

I want to take my skillset of acting, clowning, and solo performance and combine them to create a solo performance which will showcase my overall experience here at Michigan State. For the past year, I've been working directly with Rob Roznowski (MSU theatre professor) on developing this show. We have unpacked topics I'm interested in, and I've told stories from my past to find a jumping off point for the show. The story is now being shaped around father/son, parent/child, mentor/mentee relationships. I am working to have a part of it in development by the end of the semester.

With this funding, I'll be able to dedicate my full time to the development of this solo/clown show during the summer without the added stresses of graduate classes, teaching, and other responsibilities. I will focus on the creation the main character, the interactive/audience participation elements, and the overall arc of events. I'll work with colleagues and invited guests to workshop moments. I'll work directly with a few trusted collaborators (Rob being one of them) in developing comedic bits. Overall, this solo/clown show would serve as a culmination of my acting, teaching, clown, and solo performance training these past few years. In addition, this completed project would afford me the ability to apply to festivals in the United States and abroad that focus on theatre and/or comedy. It would also allow me to continue to work on my craft on my own terms in the professional world as both creative research and when in between acting jobs. I look forward to hearing from you all concerning my continuing to work on this project.