



London, United Kingdom

Sarv Raafati

Program: Theatre, Fine Arts, and Humanities - Summer 2019

Major: Biomedical Engineering

Earning the Career Development Badge:



In London, I took the classes Shakesphere in Performance and Contemporary Drama. These classes looked into these two types of theatre being performed in London, Oxford, and Stratford-upon-Avon. With the Shakesphere class, we looked into and analyzed the historical period around when

the plays were written, and then after seeing the plays, broke down the performances analytically to see how it advanced the original script.

In the Contemporary Drama class, we would discuss the background of the play we saw and after attending a performance, we would discuss how the set, acting, script, sound, lighting, and other elements all worked together. We had the opportunity to tour the National Theatre in London, allowing us a glimpse of the behind the scenes work of the theatre. This introduction to the various components and thought processes that it takes to build and design a stage production past the script, allowed me to reflect upon the multiple workings theatre must operate on to articulate a singular message on the stage. This understanding I gained allowed me to have a higher appreciation of theatre beyond the actors on stage and signaled to me that all systems must operate on multiple levels and must be appreciated past face value. Along with this, I learned to not make judgments of a piece of art as soon as viewing it but instead, pause for a few hours to process the pieces.



Transferable Skills:



This skill of understanding and pausing to think of pieces of art has followed me back home. When watching a film now, I no longer dismiss it or praise it as soon as the credits start to roll but instead spend time pondering the film. I pause to think about what I liked and didn't like, was it because of the form of editing, music, acting, or lighting? Or could it have been because of the story itself? This moment of pause allowed me to not only think deeper about the movie, but the reasons why I may have certain views and preferences on films.

“My study abroad experience has allowed me to have a better understanding and analytical ability of art than I had before, gifting me the opportunity to appreciate art more and seek to enjoy it more often.”