



Undergraduate Internship Profiles

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St. Louis Shakespeare Festival

I was really fortunate to have a unique and creative experience with the History Outside the Classroom internship, which was done through the History Department at Saint Louis University. Initially, I hadn't even considered doing an internship, but when one of my professors offered me the opportunity to take it for course credit and described the program to me, I couldn't pass it up. History Outside the Classroom let me explore real-world connections between research, history, storytelling, and my other creative interests that I study at SLU, particularly theatre. Through the internship I was able to meet museum curators, work with artists and students, and connect with professors on campus that I wouldn't otherwise get to meet.



Because I was the pilot student for this program it had an open-ended format, and each week I would explore different topics or visit different sites around St. Louis related to whatever I was researching and then write a report about it. Over the course of the internship I decided I wanted to focus on the relationship between storytelling, history, and interpretation, and how creating a work of theatre can be a living model where all those components are executed in real time in front of an audience. I produced and directed a play based off of Shakespeare's *Henry IV*, which I also got sponsored by the St. Louis Shakespeare Festival through their SHAKE 38 program, and we had a one night only performance that was experimental in nature where I got to finally test all these ideas that I had been thinking about for a whole semester! As a young artist who's also deeply interested in academia and history it was the perfect synthesis of all my interests, and to conclude the internship I wrote a paper where I tried to untangle the mess I had made on stage and reflect on my work from that semester.

This is a great internship to consider, especially for students like me who feel interested in any and every topic and have a hard time choosing just one thing to focus on. The open-ended structure and the guidance from my professor allowed me to have a pedagogical experience unlike any other, and for a semester I was given the space and support to be the scholar-artist that I hope to be one day.