

**Legal Name**

Wooster Group, Inc.

**Project Title**

To support Young Jean Lee's Interactive Web Series with The Wooster Group

**DDCF Grant Number**

2013028

**Project Progress and Successes**

Young Jean Lee's residency with The Wooster Group began with an intensive work period. Lee had identified a short film script, "A Meaning Full Life" by Sheikhar Boodram, a Bronx high school student, which she was interested in directing. We read the script in June 2013, and by July we were into a three-week production and shooting schedule. The film shoot brought together artists from Lee's work and the Group's company. Wooster Group members and associates included Cynthia Hedstrom (producer), Kate Valk, Paul Lazar and Wallace Shawn (performers), Zbigniew Bzymek (filmmaker), and Enver Chakartash (costumes). [After the shoot, Chakartash and Wooster performer Scott Shepherd continued to work with Lee on her new theater production "Straight White Men."] The rest of the film production team, Christopher Casey (production manager), Lydia Fine (production designer), and Damina Calvo (sound recordist), had all previously worked with Lee.

"A Meaning Full Life" became the flash-point around which the residency developed over the year. Editing began at discrete times, inevitably interrupted as other commitments and projects intervened. Final editing is taking place this summer, and it is expected that the video will be released by the Group and Lee in the next year. With the release of the video on our website, either episodically or as a complete piece, our engagement with the online audience will become the focus of the project. These interactions will feed into the development of a new theater work, which will be presented at The Wooster Group's homebase, The Performing Garage, in the final year of the project.

During 2013-14, the Group also laid the groundwork for tracking and collecting statistical information for the project. Essential to its success is our ability to measure and analyze the audience for "A Meaning Full Life" and other works that we release on the web. Our goal is to link that audience's online interactions to attendance at performances of the new theater piece in the final year of the project. Over the past year, we consulted with the digital marketing firm Capacity Interactive to upgrade our website's analytics tools. This improvement allows us to develop detailed information that we will need to assess the correlation, if any, between the project's online and live audiences.

**Challenges / Obstacles / Failures Encountered in the Project**

This project has a unique three-part agenda: the creative work, the engagement between

the resident artist and the host organization, and the audience interface. As with most producing artists in the field, perhaps our greatest challenge is clearing time for the first part: creative work. The demands of ancillary responsibilities around being an art-maker, and the demands of supporting one's life in the more marginally financed world of experimental art, often impinge on the actual creative practice. The Group constantly battles with this balance, and it's true for this project as well. In this project, and all our activities, we are committed to finding ways to maintain clear time for artistic work, while at the same time fully engaging with the various demands on our lives as cultural producers.

**What was learned from these that might be of benefit to others?**

We feel it is too early in the process to weigh in on what we have learned in a way that might benefit others. Perhaps the most honest thing we can say is that the first year is very much a "getting to know you" period. As our project progresses, it is our intention to become more articulate about findings that might be useful to the field

**Links to relevant website(s) and/or project publications, reports, etc.**

[www.thewoostergroup.org](http://www.thewoostergroup.org)

[www.youngjeanlee.org](http://www.youngjeanlee.org)

<http://thewoostergroup.org/blog/2013/08/28/a-meaning-full-life-%E2%80%93-slates/> (A video about the film shoot for "A Meaning Full Life" released as part of the Wooster Group's online video series, DAILIES)

<http://thewoostergroup.org/blog/2012/12/07/sugar-high-with-young-jean-lee/> (Early DAILIES video collaboration between Young Jean Lee and Wooster Group members Kate Valk and Zbigniew Bzymek)

**If someone wishes to speak with your organization further about your project, would there be a willing contact? Y/N**

If yes, please provide contact name and information for preferred method of contact (email, phone, etc).

Cynthia Hedstrom, Producer, [chedstrom@thewoostergroup.org](mailto:chedstrom@thewoostergroup.org)