

Arts Presenters Awards \$425, 000 to Support Ensemble Theatre Collaborations

Winners of the National Grants Competition Announced

For Immediate Release:
March 21, 2008

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WASHINGTON — The Association of Performing Arts Presenters (Arts Presenters) recently awarded grants totaling \$425,000 to 14 ensemble theaters and their producing and presenting partners. The Ensemble Theatre Collaborations projects are supported by grants from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) and the Ford Foundation. The Ensemble Theatre Collaborations projects propel the creation, production and presentation of leading ensemble theater work in the country.

“Ensemble theatres are a vital part of the American theatrical landscape,” stated Ben Cameron, Program Director for the Arts, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. “We are pleased to support such theatres through this grant program and are honored to partner with the Association of Performing Arts Presenters and the Ford Foundation to support 14 exciting collaborations that will benefit artists and audiences alike.”

"Ensemble theaters are energizing the contemporary theater through a wide spectrum of aesthetics and innovations -- and the textures and voices of artists from across the country," said Roberta Uno, Program Director, Ford Foundation. “We are pleased to partner with Arts Presenters and the Duke Foundation to support these exciting projects that represent a growing artistic movement.”

Recipients of the 2008 project grants are:

- **500 Clown (Chicago, IL) \$28,000**
Partner: Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
500 Clown will be creating a new work entitled *Mann ist Mann* about the fragility and resilience of individual identity during wartime.
- **Accinosco (Brooklyn, NY) \$30,000**
Partner: Walker Art Center
Accinosco will create a new work, *The Success of Failure (or, The Failure of Success)*, which is presented as a live film version of an ancient, epic folk-tale from the far distant future.
- **Bond Street Theatre (New York, NY) \$30,000**
Partner: Brava Theater Center and Exile Theatre from Kabul, Afghanistan
Bond Street Theatre will tour a work entitled *Beyond the Mirror*, illuminating historical and personal aspects of the Afghan experience over the last three decades of the war.
- **Double Edge Theatre Productions (Ashfield, MA) \$17,000**
Partner: Skirball Cultural Center and Flynn Center for the Performing Arts
Double Edge Theatre Productions will tour *The Disappearance*, which raises questions of assimilation, immigration, exile, and how individuals are defined by their culture.

- **Elevator Repair Service Theater (Brooklyn, NY) \$32,000**
 Partner: New York Theater Workshop
 Elevator Repair Service Theater will create a new work, *Sound and Fury*, staging the famous Faulkner novel of the same name.
- **Here Arts Center (New York, NY) \$21,500**
 Partner: 7 Stages and Perishable Theatre
 Here Arts Center will be touring *Disposable Men*, dealing with the notion that African-American male is an endangered species.
- **Jump Start Performance Co. (San Antonio, TX) \$40,000**
 Partner: Divadlo z Pasaze from Slovakia and Pregones Theater-
 Jump Start Performance Co. will be touring *Diagnosis: Desire*, involving Slovakian actors with severe mental challenges and learning disabilities.
- **Meredith Monk and the House Foundation for the Arts (New York, NY) \$35,000**
 Partner: Stanford University Lively Arts and Walker Art Center
 Meredith Monk and the House Foundation for the Arts will be developing and touring a work entitled *Songs of Ascension*. The performance will address the human spirit and invite the audience to have a new participatory performance experience.
- **New Paradise Laboratories (Philadelphia, PA) \$20,000**
 Partner: The Children’s Theatre Company
 New Paradise Laboratories will create a new work *Fatebook: a Cyberspace Ghost Story*, designed for teen-aged audiences as a response to new and developing styles of online social interaction.
- **Portland Center Stage (Portland, OR) \$40,000**
 Partner: Critical Mass Performance Group (CMPG)
 Portland Center Stage will develop *APOLLO part 3: Liberation* that explores the U.S. space program, its relationship with Nazi rocket scientists, and the surprising intersection with the Civil Rights Movement.
- **Red Wing Performing Group (New York, NY) \$36,000**
 Partner: Arts at St. Ann’s
 Red Wing Performing Group will develop a work entitled *Everyday Uses for Sight no. 6: Disfarmer*, inspired by the life of mid-century portrait photographer, Mike Disfarmer.
- **Squonk Opera (Pitcairn, PA) \$31,000**
 Partner: Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center and Suny Oswego
 Squonk Opera will develop and present a work entitled *Astro-rama*, a science fiction production full of humor, provocation and self-examination.
- **The Builders Association (New York, NY) \$40,000**
 Partner: Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and Walker Art Center
 The Builders Association will present and tour *Continuous City*, looking at the sense of “place” within a global context, and the growing network of transnational citizens.
- **Theatre of Yugen (San Francisco, CA) \$24,500**
 Partner: Yerba Buena Center for the Arts
 Theater of Yugen will create a new work entitled *Dogsbody*, examining the growing practice of using child soldiers as tools of force in conflict.

“We’ve been pleased to support the work of ensemble theaters and independent artists from around the world working in collaboration with producing and presenting theaters over the last three years and feel that these projects offer fresh examples of new approaches and mechanisms for creating theater and expanding theater audiences,” said Sandra Gibson, Arts Presenters’ President and CEO.”

The grants panel included artists and practitioners from the performing arts field: Lisa Mount, Director of Artistic Logistics; Steve Richardson, Director of the Arts at Carleton College; Leslie Tamaribuchi, Associate Dean and Co-Producer of California Institute of the Arts; Mark Valdez, National Coordinator of The Network of Ensemble Theaters (NET); and Kim Whitener, Producing Director of Here Arts Center.

About the Association of Performing Arts Presenters: *The Association of Performing Arts Presenters (Arts Presenters) is the largest national service and advocacy organization for the performing arts, and is dedicated to bringing artists and audiences together through presenting and touring. With over 1,900 members worldwide, Arts Presenters is committed to increasing community participation, promoting global cultural exchange, and fostering an environment for the performing arts to thrive. The performing arts industry reaches more than 100 million audience-goers each year and has a national economic impact of more than \$8.5 billion annually. For more information, visit www.artspresenters.org.*

About the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation: *Established in 1996, the mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (www.ddcf.org) is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and the prevention of child maltreatment, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties.*

About the Ford Foundation: *The Ford Foundation is an independent, non-profit grant-making organization. For more than half a century it has been a resource for innovative people and institutions worldwide, guided by its goals of strengthening democratic values, reducing poverty and injustice, promoting international cooperation and advancing human achievement. With headquarters in New York, the foundation has offices in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and Russia.*

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