



Press Release

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TCG ANNOUNCES FALL/WINTER RECIPIENTS OF THE NEW GENERATIONS PROGRAM – FUTURE COLLABORATIONS: (TCG/ITI INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS)

NEW YORK, March 2007 – Theatre Communications Group (TCG), which serves as the U.S. Center of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), is pleased to announce the latest recipients of **New Generations Program – Future Collaborations: (TCG/ITI International Fellowships)**.

In fall/winter, four not-for-profit theatre organizations and two individual theatre professionals were selected to participate in the seventh round of the **New Generations Program – Future Collaborations**, a grant initiative cooperatively designed by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Theatre Communications Group. In the first six rounds of the New Generations Program, over \$9.1 million in two-year grants have been awarded to 148 theatres in support of three objectives:

Future Leaders, early-career theatre professionals are mentored by established leaders in the theatre field.

Future Audiences, theatres expand and strengthen relationships with young, culturally specific, disabled and/or underserved audiences through proven innovative and unique audience cultivation efforts.

Future Collaborations, theatre professionals receive support for geographically unrestricted travel, enabling them to share ideas and techniques and/or collaborate with colleagues around the world.

In spring/summer, the **New Generations Program – Future Collaborations** will award \$3,000 travel grants to support unrestricted international travel by individual theatre artists, administrators and U.S. theatre companies. The program aims to enhance awareness of artists and theatre organizations in other countries and deepen the international understanding of theatre practices in the United States.

Joan Spero, President of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, remarked on the importance of the **New Generations Program – Future Collaborations** objective. “Opportunities for artists to engage in international work are critical, especially in this time of increasing globalization. We are pleased to support this initiative through TCG and look forward to the collaborations that will follow.”

In response to the announcement of the upcoming New Generations Program deadlines and the announcement of the fall/winter recipients, TCG’s Director of Artistic Programs and Director

- MORE -

of the U.S. Center of ITI, Emily Cachapero, remarked, "The world has become increasingly interconnected in every sphere, and the borders between "us" and "them" are radically transforming. Artists are leaders in shaping an understanding of what this new world culture can and will be. The work of U.S. theatre professionals now requires a greater effort to connect and collaborate with colleagues outside of our borders. TCG is thrilled to continue its work with the Duke and Mellon Foundations to make international collaboration possible for theatres and individual artists."

In fall/winter of the seventh round of the New Generations Program – Future Collaborations, international travel grants were awarded to the following four not-for-profit theatre organizations and two individual theatre professionals:

Denise Gabriel, resident movement coach at the **Alabama Shakespeare Festival (ASF)** will travel to **South Africa** to teach movement communication and to study traditional African movement for future ASF performances.

New York City-based performer **David Barlow** will travel to **Germany** to begin work on a new theatre piece with the Biorama Projekt, and to teach a series of workshops on movement and theatre at the European College of Liberal Arts, Berlin.

Actor **Electa Behrens** of Belfast, ME will travel to **Norway** to participate in a research and development project, *Primarily Vertical: Stage 1*, with theatre director Jorn Riegels Vimpel. The program will serve in the development of Vimpel's long-term research on songs from oral traditions and will actively explore this within the theatrical structures of Luigi Pirandello's *In Silence* and *Man with a Flower in His Mouth*.

Joanna Sherman, Artistic Director of the **Bond Street Theatre Coalition** (New York, NY) will travel to **Afghanistan** to collaborate with Exile Theatre on a new project of performances and workshops for emerging theatres.

Playwright and Artistic Director of **Ping Chong & Company** (New York, NY) **Ping Chong** will travel to **Japan** to attend creative meetings with Yukiza Marionette Theatre and puppet artist Atsushi Yamato to discuss a future collaboration.

Artistic Director **Andrew McMasters** of **Wing-It Productions** (Seattle, WA) will travel to **Ireland** to visit the Players of Trinity College in Dublin. McMasters will exchange cultural experiences of comedy and explore future collaborations.

A national independent selection panel, comprised of theatre professionals from across the United States, reviewed applications for this round of the **New Generations Program – Future Collaborations**. The selection panel included Melissa Foulger, Associate Artistic Director, 7 Stages (Atlanta, GA); Melvin D. Gerald, Managing Director, African Continuum Theatre Company (Washington DC); Nagle Jackson, freelance director (Princeton Junction, NJ); and Raul Lozano, Executive Director, Teatro Vision (San Jose, CA).

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, wildlife conservation, medical research and the prevention of child maltreatment, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties. The foundation's assets currently total approximately \$1.9 billion. Of its grants totaling close to \$479 million to date, the foundation has

- MORE -

approved approximately \$156 million to support not-for-profit performing arts organizations throughout the United States. The Arts Program supports artists in the contemporary dance, jazz and theatre fields, and the nonprofit organizations that nurture, produce and present them.

The **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** (www.mellon.org) is a private philanthropic institution with assets of approximately \$5.3 billion. AWMF makes grants on a selective basis to institutions of higher education, independent libraries, centers for advanced study, museums, art conservation and performing arts organizations. The foundation's Performing Arts Program focuses on achieving long-term results by providing multi-year grants to leading organizations in the disciplines of music, theatre, dance and opera. Annual giving in the area of the performing arts has averaged nearly \$18 million per year since 2000, not including approximately \$20 million in disaster-recovery relief grants made to New York-based performing arts organizations in the wake of September 11, 2001. In 2004 the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation was awarded a National Medal of Arts.

Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, offers a wide array of services in line with its mission: to strengthen, nurture and promote the professional not-for-profit American theatre. Through its artistic, management and international programs, advocacy activities, and publications, TCG seeks to increase the organizational efficiency of its member theatres, cultivate and celebrate the artistic talent and achievements of the field, and promote a larger public understanding of and appreciation for the theatre field. TCG has over 440 member theatres nationwide.

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