



Press Release

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Theatre Communications Group Announces
Winter/Spring International Travel Grant Recipients in the
Tenth Round of New Generations – Future Collaborations Travel Grant Program

“In South Africa, the government is searching for ways to respond to the sharp rise in crime and increase in female offenders. Because of the New Generations – Future Collaborations Travel Grant, we were able to apply the arts as a rehabilitation tool to decrease recidivism and offer hope to these women. Cultural Odyssey is now in the process of taking this theatrical collaboration to the Market Theatre in downtown Johannesburg and throughout South Africa with the full cooperation of the Johannesburg Correctional Services.”

Rhodessa Jones, Cultural Odyssey
Summer/Fall Round Nine New Generations – Future Collaborations Travel Grant recipient

NEW YORK, February, 2010 – Three theatres and three individuals have been selected to participate in the tenth round of the New Generations – Future Collaborations Travel Grant Program. This round of recipients is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group (TCG).

At the core of the program is the desire to build bridges between U.S. theatre professionals and their counterparts abroad, to identify theatre professionals who are or have the potential to be cultural leaders and to create opportunities for the larger U.S. theatre field to engage in international conversation.

“When TCG was founded in 1961, it helped provide connectivity and peer-to-peer learning opportunities for a handful of fledging theatres across the US, said Teresa Eyring, executive director, TCG. Today, TCG is well positioned to take the lead as our theatre movement becomes increasingly more global. These grants have been an important part of our international exchange and growth.”

The New Generations - Future Collaborations Travel Grant has no geographical limitations and the award is open to all key leadership members of theatrical organizations, as well as individual artists. It encourages cultural exchange and artistic partnerships between theatre professionals in the United States and their counterparts abroad and is focused to support all stages of these collaborations.

Following are the six recipients and a brief summary of their projects.

Jorge Luis Cacheiro will travel to Havana, Cuba to direct the Latin American premiere of Jorge Cortiñas' *Blind Mouth Singing (Canto Del Pozo Ciego)* with the Rita Montaner Theater Company.

Puppet artist **Tom Lee**, will travel to Hachioji, Japan with collaborators **Matthew Acheson, Karen Kandel, Bill Ruyle** and **Lake Simons** to research, train and work on a new piece with Master Puppeteer **Koryu Nishikawa V** and Hachioji Kuruma Ningyo (Wheeled Puppet Theatre).

Playwright **Dan O'Brien** will travel to the Arctic Circle in Canada to work with Canadian photo journalist and author **Paul Watson** on a play about his life as a war correspondent, and about his present life in the Arctic.

Double Edge Theatre directors will travel to Moscow to work with collaborators, establish new relationships with artists and presenters, and begin research on their five-country, five-year performance cycle based on the work of Marc Chagall.

McCarter Theatre Center will partner with **Danai Gurira** and **Chipo Chung** as they travel across three continents (Zimbabwe, United Kingdom, United States) to develop a new play that gives voice to Zimbabwe and its people, with a goal of an eventual production at McCarter.

PushPush Theater will collaborate with **Ballhaus Ost** in Berlin to generate an affordable, recurring and reciprocal exchange of artists, ideas, scripts and productions that cross cultural boundaries.

The grant applications were reviewed by an independent national panel of theatre professionals comprised of Dawn Chiang, lighting designer, Dawn Chiang Lighting Design, (Bridgeport, CT); Mark Cuddy, artistic director, Geva Theatre Center, (Rochester, NY); Rachel Fink, Director, School of Theatre, Berkeley Repertory, (Berkeley, CA); Peter Karapetkov, director, PURE International, PURE Theatre, (Charleston, SC); Bill Reichblum, founder and ceo, KadmusArts, (Bennington, VT); Lisa Schlesinger, playwright/asst. professor of playwriting, Columbia College of Chicago, (Iowa City, IA).

The New Generations/Future Collaborations International Travel Grants Program is funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and is administered by Theatre Communications Group.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (www.mellon.org) is a private philanthropic institution that makes grants on a selective basis in five core program areas: higher education and scholarship; libraries and scholarly communication; museums and art conservation; conservation and the environment; and performing arts. 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, and dance. Annual giving in the area of the performing arts has averaged approximately \$28 million since 2005. In 2004 the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation was awarded a National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the United States Government.

Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, exists to strengthen, nurture and promote the professional not-for-profit American theatre. Its programs serve nearly 700 member theatres and affiliate organizations and more than 12,000 individuals nationwide. As the US Center of the International Theatre Institute, TCG connects its constituents to the global theatre community. In all of its endeavors, 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. TCG is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. www.tcg.org.

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