



Theatre
Communications
Group

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CONTACT:
Dafina McMillan
dmcmillan@tcg.org
212-609-5955

Theatre Communications Group Announces Cycle B Recipients of Second Round of Global Connections Program

New York, NY –Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for theatre, is pleased to announce the Cycle B recipients for the second round of **Global Connections**. Supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, this grant program encourages reciprocity and cultural exchange throughout the world through **ON the ROAD** grants to foster new relationships with international colleagues and **IN the LAB** grants to further pre-existing international collaborations. Now in its second year, the Global Connections program awarded up to \$5,000 to eight projects through **ON the ROAD** and \$10,000 to three programs through **IN the LAB**.

“The Global Connections program demonstrates the vitality, reach and value of our growing international theatre community,” said Teresa Eyring, executive director of TCG. “These inspired theatre-makers are reaching across borders of country, language, ability and more to advance cultural exchange and artistic collaboration.”

ON the ROAD

The following eight recipients were each awarded up to \$5,000 for unrestricted travel support to foster new relationships with international colleagues that will inspire future collaborations:

Megan Campisi (Brooklyn, NY) and director Michael Leibenluft will bring *The Subtle Body*, a historical fiction set in China and written in both Mandarin and English, to Caotaiban Theater Company in Shanghai, China in an experiment of multilingual theatrical work across cultures.

Paula Cizmar (Cambria, CA) will travel to The Hague and the Balkans to meet with experts working to fight human trafficking for the purpose of writing a play combining documentary elements with fictional stories. She will consult with theatre artists in Skopje and Sarajevo on the unique ways they craft political theatre for their audiences.

Deaf West Theatre’s (North Hollywood, CA) artistic director, David Kurs, will travel to Reims, France to attend the Festival Clin d’Oeil, the leading sign language arts festival in Europe, and begin the collaborative process of a joint production with Teater Manu of Oslo, Norway.

Mashuq Deen (Brooklyn, NY) will travel with Meetu Chilana and Rita Suri to Amritsar, Chandigarh and Delhi, India to work with Roopak Kala and Welfare Society, a theatre troupe and social activist organization, on the development of a work about the anti-Sikh riots in 1984 and to engage in dialogue with those most affected by the massacre.

Gülgün Kayim (Minneapolis, MN) will engage in a cultural exchange with members of Rooftop Theatre Group, a Greek Cypriot company based in Nicosia, and the Nicosia Turkish Municipal Theatre to explore how theatre can help heal wounds caused by social and political strife, specifically in the context of Greek and Turkish communities separated by a demilitarized zone in Cyprus.

Aaron Landsman (Urbana, IL) and director Mallory Catlett will travel to London to start work on a U.K. version of *City Council Meeting* with Liverpool-based artist Joann Kushner.

Pig Iron Theatre Company’s (Philadelphia, PA) co-artistic director, Quinn Bauriedel, will travel to Bangkok, Thailand to collaborate with Arts on Location, an arts consortium that brings together global theatre practitioners for artistic and cultural exchange.

Tricklock Company's (Albuquerque, NM) co-artistic director, Juli Hendren, and writer and performer, Elsa Menéndez, will travel to Kampala, Uganda to collaborate with Ndere Troupe on a new devised work inspired by the life and death of an African explorer.

IN the LAB

The following three recipients were each awarded \$10,000 to further pre-existing international collaborations by supporting residencies that advance the development of a piece and/or explore elements leading up to a full production:

Borderlands Theater (Tucson, AZ) will create a transnational project called *Una Frontera: Dos Ladros* (One Border: Two Sides) with El Círculo Teatral in Mexico City and the theatre service organization CEUVOZ. This project will support the co-production of two commissioned plays and identify artists in Mexico to participate in the first bi-annual Border Performance Encuentro (Festival) in Tucson.

Laura Tesman (Brooklyn, NY) of WorldWideLab (WWL), an international director collective, will bring together 12 directors from Israel, Germany, Greece, Italy, Canada, India and Taiwan to collaborate on new projects for WWL's first public festival at Irondale Center.

Theater Breaking Through Barriers (New York, NY) will present *Waiting for Godot* at the Blind in Theatre: International Theatre Festival of the Blind and Visually Impaired in Zagreb, Croatia, directed by a visually-impaired artist with two blind actors in the roles of Estragon and Vladimir.

The **Global Connections selection panel** included **Elizabeth Bradley**, arts professor, Tisch School for the Arts—Department of Drama, New York University (New York, NY); **J. J. El-Far**, arts program coordinator, British Council (New York, NY); **Rachel Fink**, director of the School of Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre (Berkeley, CA); **Morgan Jenness**, creative consultant, Abrams Artists Agency (New York, NY); **Max Leventhal**, general manager, Alliance Theatre (Atlanta, GA); **Sabrina Hamilton**, artistic director/resident lighting designer, Ko Festival of Performance (Amherst, MA); and **Richard Hopkins**, artistic director, Florida Studio Theatre (Sarasota, FL).

Learn more about the Global Connections program, including upcoming application guidelines, at www.tcg.org/globalconnections.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is a private philanthropic institution that makes grants on a selective basis in five core program areas: higher education and scholarship; scholarly communications and information technology; 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, theater, and dance. Annual giving in the area of the performing arts has averaged approximately \$30 million per year 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. www.mellon.org

For over 50 years, **Theatre Communications Group** (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, has existed to strengthen, nurture and promote the professional not-for-profit American theatre. TCG's constituency has grown from a handful of groundbreaking theatres to nearly 700 member theatres and affiliate organizations and more than 12,000 individuals nationwide. TCG offers its members networking and knowledge-building opportunities through conferences, events, research and communications; awards grants, approximately \$2 million per year, to theatre companies and individual artists; advocates on the federal level; and serves as the U.S. Center of the International Theatre Institute, connecting its constituents to the global theatre community. TCG is North America's largest independent publisher of dramatic literature, with 12 Pulitzer Prizes for Best Play on the TCG booklist. It also publishes the award-winning AMERICAN THEATRE magazine and ARTSEARCH®, the essential source for a career in the arts. 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. www.tcg.org.

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