



Press Release

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Theatre Communications Group Announces **2010 Summer/Fall International Travel Grant Recipients in the Tenth Round of New Generations – Future Collaborations Program**

"I will be ever grateful for the opportunity to work with my teacher, Kyogen Master Yukio Ishida as collaborators on a script for *Candide, or Optimism*. The profound humanity of a master artist enables a significant and powerful conversation, regardless of cultural and linguistic barriers. It is humbling to be part of a much bigger dialogue and the Future Collaborations grant made it possible for me to further my development."

Jubilith Moore, artistic director, Theatre of Yugen
Winter/Spring Round Nine New Generations – Future Collaborations Travel Grant recipient

NEW YORK, May, 2010 – More than \$37,000 was recently awarded to three individuals and four theatre companies to participate in the 2010 Summer/Fall round of the New Generations – Future Collaborations Travel Grant Program. Now in its tenth round, this program is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group (TCG).

The New Generations – Future Collaborations Travel Grant Program is designed to build bridges between U.S. theatre professionals and their counterparts abroad. US-based theatres and theatre professionals may request up to \$6,000 to facilitate international collaboration by way of hosting or traveling abroad.

"Since 1961, TCG has been the national service organization for the professional not-for-profit American theatre field," said Teresa Eyring, executive director, TCG. "Today, TCG fosters conditions for the emergence of a new level of international and intercultural awareness and cooperation through theatre. These grants have been an important part of our international exchange and growth."

The New Generations - Future Collaborations Travel Grant Program has no geographic limitations and the program is open to all key leadership members of theatre organizations and individual theatre practitioners. At its core, the program encourages cultural exchange and artistic partnerships between theatre professionals in the United States and their counterparts abroad at all stages of their proposed collaborations.

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

Clinton Turner Davis (Brooklyn, NY)

Will continue collaboration in Taipei with Robin Ruizendaal, artistic director of the Taiyuan Puppet Theatre to adapt the Vietnamese literary masterpiece *The Tale of Kieu*; and to begin developing, *A Sea of Tears* -- songs, music and puppets that explore themes of life, separation and the "blues" in different cultures.

Darius Mannino (Burbank, CA)

Will travel to Kigali, Rwanda, to enhance ongoing relationships with several Rwandan theatre artists through the creation of an original, artist-generated work to be performed in both Rwanda and the U.S.

Michael Sommers (Minneapolis, MN)

Will travel to Indonesia to begin collaborations with director and shadow puppet master Koes Yulinadi, whose work pushes his country's tradition of puppetry, mask, music, movement and gesture to a contemporary voice and context.

Following are the four theatre company recipients and a description of their projects.

GALA Hispanic Theatre (Washington, DC)

In Madrid, GALA's producing artistic director, Hugo Medrano and six company members will attend special workshops on Spanish classical technique, verse and interpretation; all to prepare for GALA's production of *El Caballero de Olmedo* by Lope de Vega, which will launch the theater's upcoming 35th anniversary season.

Jump-Start Performance Co. (San Antonio, TX)

Three company members will travel to Slovakia to work on a joint production with Divadlo z Pasaze, an ensemble of mentally challenged performers. Together, they will begin work on *Outsider* as they also begin a long-term cultural and personal exchange.

Lark Play Development Center (New York, NY)

Playwrights David Henry Hwang and Lloyd Suh will travel to the Philippines to work with the Lark's partners at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and The Writers' Bloc to create a comprehensive action plan for ongoing reciprocal exchange activities between Filipino and U.S. playwrights. An annual international playwriting workshop will be slated for summer 2011.

Pregones Theater (Bronx, NY)

Will travel to Gauteng Province, South Africa, for a convening of the Worldwide Theater Carousel. Alongside host Tswelopele Performing Artists (TSWEPA), other partners attending are from Belgium and Peru. Collaborators in Chile, Holland, Slovakia and Iraq will join remotely via web.

The grant applications were reviewed by an independent national panel of theatre professionals comprised of **Carlyle Brown**, playwright/artistic director, Carlyle Brown & Company (Minneapolis, MN); **José Antonio Cruz**, producing artistic manager, Repertorio Español (New York, NY); **Sharon Graci**, artistic director, PURE Theatre (Charleston, SC); **Morgan Jenness**, creative consultant, Abrams Artists Agency (New York, NY); **Rebecca Rugg**, associate producer, Steppenwolf Theatre Company (Chicago, IL); and **Dawn Akemi Saito**, performer/writer/artist-in-residence, Fordham University (Brooklyn, NY).

For additional information about the recipients, their projects and TCG's international activities, please visit www.tcg.org/international .

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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