



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Syracuse Stage 1 of 13 Theatres in Country to Receive
National Grant from Theatre Communications Group (TCG)**

**Stage to Receive \$77,000 for Audience Development
Programs and General Operating Expenses**

Special Series and Community Events Planned for 09-10 Season

(Syracuse, NY)— Syracuse Stage is one of 13 theatres across the nation to receive a grant for Future Audiences from the New Generations Program, a grant initiative cooperatively designed by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Theatre Communications Group (TCG). Syracuse Stage will receive \$77,000 to help expand and strengthen existing, unique, and innovative audience development programs that have proven effective in reaching young, culturally specific and/or underserved audiences.

"This is terrific news and a great honor for our theatre and Syracuse," said Jeffrey Woodward, Managing Director at Syracuse Stage. "The grant is a strong endorsement of Tim Bond's artistic leadership and his vision to expand our audience and make this a theatre for all."

"Theatre Communications Group's New Generations Program has been an important initiative for the theatre field since 2001," said Ed Henry, president of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. "We are delighted to partner with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in supporting this ninth round of grantees."

The first Syracuse Stage event to fall within the parameters of the New Generations Program was Stage's Open House that took place on Saturday, September 26. The event drew over 400 people and included Backstage Tours, an open dress rehearsal of the Bank of America Children's Tour, a Tech Demonstration, and complimentary refreshments.

Future plans for attracting theatregoers to Syracuse Stage include live music during the post-show opening night celebrations in association with WAER 88.3, LGBT Pride Night Series, Actor Talkback Series, Welch Allyn Signed Interpreted Performance Series, Wednesday @ 1 Lecture Series, M&T Bank Pay What You Can Nights, involvement in Syracuse's TH3 citywide arts open, and special events in association with area groups.

PROGRAMS AT SYRACUSE STAGE

LIVE in the Sutton. *Come for the show, stay for the music.* Join us to celebrate opening night performances with live music in the Sutton Pavilion following the show. Mingle and meet the actors. Tonight the bar stays open late! Presented in association with WAER 88.3.

October 16 - *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*

November 27 - *Little Women*

December 12 - *This Wonderful Life*

January 29 - *The Price*

February 26 - *Lookingglass Alice*

March 26 - *Almost, Maine*

May 7 - *Fences*

LGBT Pride Night. *Get IN with the OUT crowd.* Join us an hour before the show for a gathering of gay and gay-friendly theatergoers. Stay tuned for special appearances, prizes, performances and featured groups - plus complimentary refreshments.

October 15 - *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*

**Featuring a portion of the The AIDS Memorial Quilt, presented in association with CNY HSA, <http://www.cnyhsa.com/>*

December 10 - *Little Women & This Wonderful Life*

January 28 - *The Price*

February 25 - *Lookingglass Alice*

March 25 - *Almost, Maine*

May 6 - *Fences*

Actor Talkback Series. A comfortable forum following Sunday evening performances where your questions are answered by members of the cast or director and/or members of the Syracuse Stage staff.

October 18 - *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*

November 29 - *Little Women*

January 31 - *The Price*

February 28 - *Lookingglass Alice*

March 28 - *Almost, Maine*

May 16 - *Fences*

Welch Allyn Signed Interpreted Performance Series. *In Memory of Susan Thompson.* American Sign Language interpreted performances.

October 24 at 3 p.m. - *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*

December 5 at 3 p.m. - *Little Women*

December 19 at 3:30 p.m. - *This Wonderful Life*

February 6 at 3 p.m. - *The Price*

March 6 at 3 p.m. - *Lookingglass Alice*

April 3 at 3 p.m. - *Almost, Maine*

May 29 at 3 p.m. - *Fences*

Wednesday @ 1 Lecture Series. Join us an hour before Wednesday matinee performances for interesting and informative lectures relating to the current production.

October 28 - *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*

December 9 - *Little Women*

February 10 - *The Price*

March 10 - *Lookingglass Alice*

March 31 - *Almost, Maine*

May 26 - *Fences*

M&T Bank Pay What You Can Series. *Theatre for all.* Tickets to select dress rehearsals are available for a suggested minimum donation of \$5, available at the Syracuse Stage Box Office. *Please note a photographer may be present, and portions of the theatre may not be available for seating.*

October 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Dress Rehearsal of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*

**Upcoming dates TBA*

The Third Thursday (TH3). *Syracuse's citywide arts open.* View designer renderings of our sets and costumes, sit in on a dress rehearsal, or stop by for some snacks!

October 15, 6 - 8 p.m.

**A portion of The AIDS Memorial Quilt can be viewed in the Sutton Pavilion.*

November 19

December 17

January 21

February 18

March 18

April 15

May 20

THE 13 THEATRES AWARDED GRANTS IN THE FUTURE AUDIENCES OBJECTIVE:

- **Alabama Shakespeare Festival** (Montgomery, AL) will expand its Southern Writers' Project (SWP) to continue attracting culturally diverse audiences.
- **American Repertory Theatre Company** (Cambridge, MA) will expand the boundaries of theatre, exploring the best texts from across cultures and ages.
- **Bedlam Theatre** (Minneapolis, MN) will increase support and further evolve its social and community programming, a decade-old and continuingly effective approach for building new, young audiences.
- **Epic Theatre Ensemble** (New York, NY) will enhance and expand its Gateway program: free mobile theatrical productions designed to attract, engage, and enfranchise young and culturally specific, first-time theatre-goers.
- **HartBeat Ensemble** (Hartford, CT) will fully fund a community liaison position to effectively develop new audiences from the diverse communities in Greater Hartford.
- **Imagination Stage** (Bethesda, MD) will expand programming that engages children ages 2-4. In addition to mainstage productions and storytelling, ISI will create intimate, participatory plays and installations for this age group.
- **Junebug Productions** (New Orleans, LA) will cultivate New Orleans audiences of emerging artists and youth primarily in the African American community by expanding the Free Southern Theater Institute (FSTI) mentorship program that offers training in developing ensemble theater productions for social change.

- **Oregon Shakespeare Festival** (Ashland, OR) will build on emerging connections with Latino audiences through Spanish-captioned performances, bilingual events, audience services and focus groups that deepen the impact of 2008's Festival Latino.
- **San Diego Repertory Theatre** (San Diego, CA) will dramatically strengthen community partnerships which engage young and culturally diverse audiences from National City and other communities through open rehearsals and expanded "Surround Events."
- **Syracuse Stage** (Syracuse, NY) will partner with local organizations to present a series of pre and post-performance events for every play; creation of exhibits and events related to our plays; tour *Backstory!* productions to civic organizations; expand its web-based outreach and enrichment.
- **Teatro SEA** (New York, NY) will focus on expanding a/d strategies to coincide with the expansion of its new theatre/facilities by incorporating the expertise of professionals/consultants.
- **Ten Thousand Things Theater** (Minneapolis, MN) will add five performances for each of the three shows toured per season: two of the five performances will be to rural Minnesota; and the other three performances will be for its urban audiences.
- **viBe Theater Experience** (New York, NY) will increase the number and engagement level of urban teenage audiences at its productions by expanding its performance runs, and by conducting pre-performance playmaking workshops at schools and community organizations.

THE NEW GENERATIONS PROGRAM

The New Generations Program is funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and is administered by Theatre Communications Group.

DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

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. The foundation's assets currently total approximately \$1.4 billion. Since 1997, the foundation's Arts Program has committed approximately \$205.5 million in grants to supporting artists in the contemporary dance, jazz and theatre fields, and the nonprofit organizations that nurture, produce and present them.

THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION

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, theater, and dance. Annual giving in the area of the performing arts has averaged approximately \$28 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.

THEATRE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

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 connect its constituents to the global theatre community. TCG is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. www.tcg.org.

SYRACUSE STAGE

Syracuse Stage is Central New York's premier professional theatre. Founded in 1974, Stage has produced more than 220 plays in 36 seasons including a number of world, American, and East Coast premieres. Each season 90,000 patrons enjoy an adventurous mix of new plays and bold interpretations of classics and musicals featuring the finest theatre artists. In addition, Stage maintains a vital educational outreach program that annually serves over 30,000 students from 24 counties. A solid core of subscribers and supporters helps keep Syracuse Stage a vibrant artistic presence in Central New York. Additional support comes from the government, foundations, corporations and Syracuse University. Syracuse Stage is a constituent of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, and a member of the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, the Arts and Cultural Leadership Alliance (ACLA), the University Hill Corporation and the East Genesee Regent Association. Syracuse Stage is a member of The League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the largest professional theatre association in the country.

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Syracuse Stage | Producing Artistic Director: Timothy Bond | Managing Director: Jeffrey Woodward
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