

## JEROME FOUNDATION FY 2006 Grants Awarded in Theater

### Cherry Lane Alternative Theatre

CHERRY LANE ALTERNATIVE THEATRE, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$58,000 in support of the Mentor Project. The mission of Cherry Lane Theatre is to cultivate an urban artists' colony whose established and emerging talents perpetuate a ground-breaking Off-Broadway heritage and engage audiences as partners in creating theater that illuminates contemporary issues and transforms the spirit. Jerome Foundation has supported the Mentor Project at Cherry Lane for six years. A national Nominating Committee of theater professionals recommends emerging playwrights for consideration. Three playwrights are selected to be nurtured by three recognized and experienced playwright mentors who guide the playwrights through an intensive developmental process consisting of meetings, readings, and showcase productions. The Mentor Project is a developmental journey that builds confidence, encourages distinct writing styles and perspectives, and leads to professional recognition.

### The Civilians

THE CIVILIANS, New York City, received \$10,000 in support of the creation and production of new work by its core artistic group and continued development of two existing pieces, *Nobody's Lunch* and *Gone Missing*. The Civilians is an artist-run company that creates works from investigations into real life, using methods that combine documentary and artistic practices. Its shows illuminate the interplay between individual experience and the larger cultural landscape. Jerome subsidy will be directed toward the development and production of new works in the 2005-06 season. *Escaping the Modern World*, a project led by Jenny Schwartz and Anne Kauffman, is based on a series of interviews with individuals and communities that resist modern technology. The Evangelical Christianity Project is a collaboration between The Civilians and Z Space Studio, San Francisco, derived from an immersion residency within an evangelical Christian church community. The idea for this piece stems from the belief that the role of religious values in a democratic society is deeply unresolved and of pressing importance.

### Clubbed Thumb

CLUBBED THUMB, New York City, received a two-year grant commitment of \$20,000 in support of several programs serving emerging playwrights. Clubbed Thumb's mission is to develop and produce funny, strange, and provocative new plays by living American writers. It's committed to providing opportunities for women in the theater. Three of its ongoing programs, Summerworks, New Play Boot Camp and Productions, constitute the programming supported by Jerome Foundation. Funding assists emerging playwrights in the creation, development and production of new works. Summerworks sets the agenda for the theater's new work creation. Many of the plays initiated there go on to productions after the festival. The New Play Boot Camp is an intensive developmental workshop in which playwrights are given full access to a theater, cast and director, with culminating public readings.

### The Collapsible Giraffe

THE COLLAPSABLE GIRAFFE, New York City, received \$10,000 in support of the creation and development of two works. This collaborative company of theater artists is committed to the creation of new experimental performances. The first, *Letters from the Earth*, originally inspired by Mark Twain's novella, which imagines a set of letters sent by the archangel Satan to his friends, the archangels Michael and Gabriel. Twain's novella is a biting satirical critique of religious dogma and human reason. The second piece, *Dead End Places*, will explore human ecstatic experience. The point of departure for this project begins with the work and friendship of poet-artist-visionary Brion Gysin and writer-icon William Burroughs.

### The Foundry Theatre

THE FOUNDRY THEATRE, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$46,000 in support of commissions, developmental and production work with emerging playwrights/theater creators. Founded in 1994, the Foundry is a producing theater fed by an artist think tank. It commissions, develops, premieres and tours works of theater alongside civic dialogue events that help artists and the public understand their relationship to the world. The Foundry is proud of the fact that it is a place where an emerging creator can find support from commission to premiere and then to tour. Actively under development in 2006 are *Ecstatic States*, created by playwright/performer Juliana Francis, and *Out of Time*, created by Steve Cosson and Michael Friedman. Early in 2006, *Major Bang*, performed by Steve Cuiffo and Maggie Hoffman, and written by Kirk Lynn, was produced.

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### **INTAR Theatre**

INTAR THEATRE, New York City, received \$20,000 in support of the NewWorks Laboratory. INTAR develops and produces new work for theatre in English by Latino writers. It solicits works from playwrights and performance artists in a variety of ways. The NewWorks Lab finds the most interesting new voices to cultivate and feature in workshop presentations. Workshop productions are given two weeks of rehearsal as well as design and technical support. The objective is to provide a full workshop production for each new work before a live audience in order to develop the skill of the writer and substance of the work.

### **The Jungle Theater**

THE JUNGLE THEATER, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$23,500 in support of its Play Reading Series, literary management and developmental support for emerging playwrights. The Jungle Theater strives to maintain a high standard of artistic excellence, to present works that preserve and build on our theatrical heritage, to encourage and support artists in all areas of theater production, to broaden access to theater through education and outreach activities, and to contribute to the vitality of its neighborhood and community. Jerome support is directed toward activities that encourage the creation, development and production of new work by emerging playwrights. Funding will allow the Jungle to continue the annual Play Reading Series, hold readings of other new scripts throughout the year, mount workshops of new scripts in development, and support the work of the Theater's literary manager. In the Play Reading Series, six new plays by emerging playwrights are read by professional actors over the course of four days. The series informs the Theater's decisions about further development of the pieces and the commitment to producing select works on the mainstage.

### **Lark Play Development Center**

The LARK PLAY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, New York City, received \$10,000 in support of the participation of emerging playwrights in various programs. The Lark is a play development center committed to identifying new voices. It brings resources to playwrights to develop their visions rather than trying to fix plays to make them suit the needs of a particular theatrical venue or audience. The Lark is a place where playwrights come first, where a working laboratory gives writers the tools and resources they need-space, time, actors, directors, critical feedback, and the freedom to experiment and expand their boundaries. The process begins with an open submission policy and careful selection and then evolves in a variety of programmatic tracks. Each year, the Lark works with approximately 85 playwrights.

### **Mabou Mines**

MABOU MINES, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$60,000 in support of the participation of emerging artists in the Suite Resident Artist Program. Mabou Mines, with a distinguished production history and an active contemporary practice, is a collective of artists who believe that life is performance and that the study and practice of one is the study and practice of the other. The Suite program was established in 1991 to meet the needs of emerging artists in search of a nurturing place to develop work. Every other year, Mabou Mines issues an open invitation to emerging artists and small companies to apply for participation in the Suite program. Once selected, Suite artists connect with company mentors and develop their projects. In the second year, four Alumni Resident artists return to ready new works for production.

### **Mixed Blood Theatre Company**

MIXED BLOOD THEATRE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$30,000 in support of commissions and fees for emerging Minnesota and New York City playwrights within its New Plays Initiative. Mixed Blood is a professional, multiracial theater dedicated to encouraging cultural pluralism, individual equality, and artistic excellence. Its five programs include mainstage productions, a new plays initiative, school tours, customized theater for the work place, and a summer theater training program. The New Plays Initiative is production focused. It casts a broad net to find new plays and new playwrights. Commissions for new works as well as fees paid to writers for works that are produced on the mainstage are the focus of Jerome Foundation funding.

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### **New Dramatists**

NEW DRAMATISTS, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$80,000 in support of its New Works Process and the Composer Librettist Studio. For over 50 years, New Dramatists has dedicated itself to one mission: to find gifted playwrights and give them the time, space and tools to develop their craft so that they may fulfill their potential and make lasting contributions to the theater. Resident playwrights are competitively selected for seven-year terms. The core New Works Process includes a range of writer-driven readings and workshops structured to provide opportunities to playwrights to work on their plays and musicals at any stage of incubation.

### **New Georges**

Jerome Foundation Directors authorized a two-year grant of \$30,000 to NEW GEORGES, New York City, in support of new plays developed and produced in the 2004-05 and 2005-06 seasons. New Georges was founded to confront the scarcity of substantive roles for women and the production of plays by women. It creates opportunities and heralds new perspectives. The Room is a multi-use work space that is home to readings, small-scale workshop presentations, rehearsals and community gatherings. The primary play development process is encapsulated in the mini-workshop, comprised of three to five rehearsals and one presentation. Playwrights are given time in a space with directors and actors so that they can explore and make revisions in their plays. New Georges also presents a reading series and a Festival of New Works.

### **New York Theatre Workshop**

NEW YORK THEATRE WORKSHOP, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$38,000 in support of activities that encourage and support emerging playwrights. From readings and small-scale studio productions to fellowships intended to advance the skills of promising minority theater artists, the Workshop provides a wide range of creative learning opportunities crucial to the Workshop's mission of artistic growth among theater artists. The Workshop maintains a primary commitment to a community of directors, playwrights, actors and designers known as the Usual Suspects, a group of more than 300 theater artists. Founded in 1979, New York Theatre Workshop is committed to the development of innovative and unpredictable theater by supporting theater artists at all stages of their careers.

### **Pillsbury United Communities/Pillsbury House Theatre**

PILLSBURY UNITED COMMUNITIES/THE PILLSBURY HOUSE THEATRE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year commitment of \$24,000 to support the development and production of new works by emerging playwrights. In addition to mainstage productions by Heather MacDonald, Kimberly Morgan and Tracey S. Wilson, the Theatre will present the Three Mondays: Reading Series showcasing the works of new and emerging playwrights. The Theatre's mission is to create challenging theatre to inspire choice, change and connection.

### **The Playwrights' Center**

THE PLAYWRIGHTS' CENTER, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$81,000 to support the 2005-06 Jerome Playwriting Residency Fellowships and the Many Voices Program. The Center fuels the theater by providing services that support playwrights and playwriting. It nurtures artistic excellence and new visions of theater, fosters playwright initiative and leadership, practices cultural pluralism, discovers emerging artists, advocates for playwrights and their work, connects playwrights with their audiences, and develops a community for new work. In the Residency Program, five fellowships are awarded to competitively selected emerging playwrights who spend the fellowship year in Minnesota and participate in readings, workshops and related program opportunities. The writers develop new work in a variety of ways for a variety of venues. Jerome support was also authorized for the Many Voices Program, designed to develop playwrights of color through stipends, education, and opportunities to develop new work with theater professionals. Eight nine-month residencies are awarded. The playwrights meet twice a month to read works in development, undertake writing assignments and exercises, discuss issues relating to their work, and engage in a peer support and learning network.

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### Playwrights Horizons

The Jerome Foundation Directors authorized a two-year grant of \$46,000 to PLAYWRIGHTS HORIZONS, New York City, in support of the development and production of new works by emerging playwrights in its 2004-05 and 2005-06 seasons. Playwrights Horizons has served as an artistic home to hundreds of playwrights and thousands of theater artists since its founding in 1971. Its purpose is to discover and nurture new voices for the American theater. It conducts up to 20 play readings a season, mounts several developmental workshops, utilizes the expertise and experience of its Literary Department to assist writers, commissions new works and produces new plays.

### Repertorio Español

The Directors authorized a two-year grant of \$36,000 to REPERTORIO ESPAÑOL, New York City, in support of the development of new works by emerging playwrights. Repertorio seeks to present, in rotating repertory, the finest Spanish-language theatre. Jerome dollars will be directed toward the Voces Nuevas program, which provides opportunities to emerging Hispanic playwrights to present their work and pursue artistic goals through readings and full productions of new work. The Desarrollo component adds mentor directors for playwrights to fully develop the potential of the writers and the scripts.

### Skewed Visions

SKEWED VISIONS, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a grant of \$12,500 in support of the creation and production of a three-part site-specific work. This performance company specializes in works engaging in and engaged by their physical environments. It uses interdisciplinary approaches to create strongly visual works, seeking modes of seeing or conceiving that deviate from the linear. Jerome subsidy is directed toward *Days and Nights*, which includes three segments: *The Hidden Room*, *A Quiet Ambition*, and *Time For Bed*. They explore landscapes of myth and meaning, and are linked by the use of a common space—the Witch's Hat Water Tower in the Prospect Park neighborhood of Minneapolis. Written and directed by Gülgün Kayim, *The Hidden Room* is based on the life and art of Jewish/Ukrainian artist/author and Holocaust victim Bruno Schultz. Charles Campbell, collaborating with performance artist Cherri Macht, will develop *A Quiet Ambition* as an imagistic exploration of personal and social alienation as manifested in contemporary society. *Time For Bed*, created and directed by Sean Kelley-Pegg, is a cyclic, continuous film work about a watcher and the watcher's imagination.

### Soho Repertory Theatre

SOHO REPERTORY THEATRE, New York City, develops unconventional plays, cultivating new work from first impulses through fully mounted productions. A Jerome Foundation grant of \$20,000 over two years was authorized to support artists' fees across a spectrum of play development activities. Development activities include research and development, commissions, staged workshops, and a Writer/Director Lab. Jerome support is directed to emerging playwrights based in New York City and/or Minnesota.

### Voice & Vision

VOICE & VISION, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$27,000 in support of the ENVISION Retreat and Lab workshop productions of works by emerging playwrights. Voice & Vision seeks to develop and produce vibrant theater works with female artists at the core. Each writer and artistic team is treated individually to define goals and ascertain the resources needed to bring works to their next stage. In 2005-06, the Lab will support the growth of three new works ranging in style, content, aesthetic and cultural perspective.

### Women's Project & Productions

WOMEN'S PROJECT, New York City, received \$23,000 in support of the participation of emerging playwrights in its Artist Cultivation Programs. Women's Project produces rich and imaginative work for the American stage while cultivating the next generation of exceptional women theater artists and redefining their position and influence in the 21st century. Artist Cultivation Programs include the Playwrights Lab, new play development initiatives, readings, festivals of new works and a Directors' Forum. Lab playwrights meet twice a month in sessions that include readings of plays in progress; visits from prominent artistic directors, agents, and playwrights; workshops and collaborations with members of the Directors' Forum; career counseling; and information about opportunities to advance their work. The Pink Room Reading Series and the Women's Work Festival feature readings and productions of new plays.