

## JEROME FOUNDATION FY 2007 Grants Awarded in Theater

### Thomas Bradshaw/P.S. 122

PERFORMANCE SPACE 122 (P.S. 122), New York City, acting as fiscal sponsor for playwright THOMAS BRADSHAW, received \$8,000 in support of the creation and production of *Purity*. P.S.122, a well-established presenter of new and experimental works in the performing arts, often provides development and fiscal sponsorship services to artists. Playwright Thomas Bradshaw writes to challenge social norms and provoke audiences to question deep-seeded beliefs about the world. Bradshaw believes that theater should slap audiences awake with its audacity and rivet them with its electricity. Jerome funding will support the premier production of *Purity*, which addresses the role of assimilated African-Americans in American society.

### The 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 Alternative 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 Children's Theatre Company

THE CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$30,000 in support of the Playground Program. The Children's Theatre Company aims to create extraordinary theater experiences that educate, challenge and inspire young people. Playground is a collaboration of The Children's Theatre Company and New York City-based New Dramatists. Its purpose is to introduce emerging playwrights to the growing field of theater for young people and to support the creation of new work. This grant will allow the collaborating organizations to embark on the third round of Playground, which will serve three playwrights. This process evolves over two years and includes components designed to support the writers in the development of new work that is then considered by The Children's Theatre Company for further development and production.

### The Civilians

THE CIVILIANS, New York City, received \$10,000 in support of the development and production of new work. Founded in 2001, The Civilians is an artist-run company that creates original projects from investigations into real life. Using methods that combine documentary and artistic practices, the company develops shows that illuminate the interplay between individual experience and the larger cultural landscape. Funding will support the development of a music-theater piece examining the intersection of religion and public life in contemporary America through the context of the activist Christian movement in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and additional new works by company members. The company is also developing a cabaret series that will serve as an experimental space for the development of new work by Associate Artists and guest artists.

### Clubbed Thumb

CLUBBED THUMB, New York City, received \$15,000 in support of Summerworks, productions of new plays and Boot Camp. Clubbed Thumb commissions, develops and produces strange, funny and provocative new plays by emerging writers. Its 11 seasons have illuminated over 100 plays and 60 productions. The New Play Boot Camp provides intensive development workshops to three playwrights each year, culminating in public readings. The development of the script is prioritized over production. The 2007 Summerworks series will feature three productions of new works.

### The Ensemble Studio Theatre

ENSEMBLE STUDIO THEATRE, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$36,000 in support of developmental programs for emerging playwrights. EST is dedicated to the development of new American plays and serves the theater community as a creative haven in which artists may initiate and develop new work. It provides artists with an artistic home where they can expand, develop and improve their craft through various levels of production. Its multifaceted development program includes Youngblood, a collective of writers under 30 who meet to develop new work, critique each other's writing and present public readings and new workshop performances. EST also includes new work in the Thicker Than Water Festival; Octoberfest; Going to the River, a celebration of African-American women playwrights; and a mainstage season.

## JEROME FOUNDATION FY 2007 Grants Awarded in Theater

### The Foundry Theatre

THE FOUNDRY THEATRE, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$46,000 in support of commissions, developmental activities and productions of works by 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.

### In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre

IN THE HEART OF THE BEAST PUPPET AND MASK THEATRE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$34,000 in support of the MayDay Mentor Program for emerging artists. Founded in 1973, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre explores and celebrates human experience and the wonders of the world's natural and cultural riches through performance, ceremony and teaching. For 33 years, it has produced an annual MayDay Parade and Festival. The MayDay Mentor Program immerses emerging protégé artists in the process of planning and creating ceremonial productions. Protégés receive information about the context, history and process of MayDay; study examples of other creative community-building projects; and receive specialized training in puppetry techniques for large, public outdoor events. They develop leadership skills through coaching as they engage volunteers in MayDay workshop activities. Master mentor and Artistic Director Sandy Spieler oversees the program, pairs mentors and protégés, leads group training sessions and serves as a resource.

### INTAR Theatre

INTAR THEATRE, New York City, received \$20,000 in support of the development and production of new works by emerging playwrights in the NewWorks Laboratory. Founded in 1966, INTAR presents Latino adaptations of classics, cabarets and world premieres of plays written by Latino-Americans. It has commissioned, developed and produced works by more than 174 Latino playwrights, composers and choreographers. The NewWorks Laboratory supports the development and production of new works by four or five playwrights each year. Each play is given a one to three week period of development, culminating in two public workshop productions and two public staged readings. The Lab provides a supportive, professional environment that fosters creativity.

### Young Jean Lee's Theater Company/The Field

THE FIELD, New York City, as fiscal sponsor for Young Jean Lee's Theater Company, received \$10,000 to develop **Church**. Drawing from personal experiences, Young Jean Lee plans to make the most moving, breathtakingly beautiful church service she's capable of making, an original ceremony that borrows from a wide range of religious and cultural traditions. Her intent is to create a complicated and evocative experience for the audience. This grant recognizes the promise of experimental playwright and director Young Jean Lee.

### Live Action Set/The Southern Theater

THE SOUTHERN THEATER, Minneapolis, Minnesota, as fiscal sponsor for LIVE ACTION SET, received \$10,000 in support of the creation and production of **Desire for the Undesirable**. Four emerging artists form the collaborative Live Action Set: Vanessa Voskuil, Galen Treuer, Megan Odell and Noah Bremer. Their shared aesthetic produces performances that dissolve artistic boundaries and address relevant issues. **Desire for the Undesirable** is inspired by recent events in Colorado and Pennsylvania in which middle-aged men entered schools and eventually killed some of the intended victims and themselves. The company is interested in exploring the inner conflict of a fantasy or desire that is not wanted; and in investigating those desires found to be morally or intellectually repulsive.

### 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.

## **JEROME FOUNDATION FY 2007 Grants Awarded in Theater**

### **Zaraawar Mistry/Center for Independent Artists**

Directors authorized a grant of \$10,000 to the CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT ARTISTS, Minneapolis, Minnesota, in support of the production of *Indian Cowboy* at the Asia Society, New York City. The Center for Independent Artists is a service and presenting organization that assists artists in the development and presentation of new work. It frequently acts as fiscal sponsor for independent artists' proposals. Playwright, director and performer Zaraawar Mistry's work *Indian Cowboy* was commissioned and produced by Mixed Blood Theatre in early 2006. It chronicles the misadventures of a young man in India and America. It's performed on a bare stage, lit entirely by candlelight, without any props or costume changes. Mistry portrays over a dozen characters based on the tale of a young man who comes to America after being found as an infant, by the side of the road, by three brothers from the minority Parsi community of India. The piece is extrapolated from Mistry's personal history with the aim of being a universal tale of an individual looking for a place in the world. The presentation of this work at the Asia Society is strategically designed to advance Mistry's work on a national level and enlarge his audience.

### **Mixed Blood Theatre Company**

MIXED BLOOD THEATRE COMPANY, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$11,700 in support of commissions of new works by emerging playwrights and the development and production of those works. Founded in 1976, Mixed Blood is a professional, multiracial theatre promoting cultural pluralism and individual equality through artistic excellence. It is committed to producing plays that use culture-conscious casting, providing a forum for theatre artists of color to practice their craft, taking artistic risks in the selection and production of plays, reaching non-traditional theatre audiences and providing educational programs on racial and cultural themes. Jerome support covers commissions, development, production and dramaturgical services. Works include single-playwright scripts as well as productions built from short commissioned plays by several playwrights addressing particular subjects or themes.

### **Mu Performing Arts**

MU PERFORMING ARTS, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$35,000 in support of the New Performance Program. Mu Performing Arts is a Pan-Asian entity that creates theater and Taiko from the heart of the Asian American experience. It blends Asian and Western theatrical forms in telling Asian American stories. The New Performance Program will commission new works from seven emerging artists, develop those works and produce a select number in the mainstage season. Attention will focus on experimental and interdisciplinary theatrical performance, encompassing spoken word and nontraditional performance. The Program will unfold in several phases.

### **New Georges**

NEW GEORGES, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$30,000 in support of the development and production of new works. New Georges is an innovative producer of ambitious new plays and a supportive, productive home for promising and accomplished women theater artists. Jerome funding is directed toward play development activities and new works production. In The Room program, New Georges supports development through the provision of affordable, accessible work space for workshops, rehearsals, readings and staged readings. Women and Monsters, a process oriented workshop, serves teams of artists engaged in long-term collaborations.

### **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 HOUSE THEATRE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, is a professional arts institution committed to the Settlement House tradition of creating art in collaboration with community. Housed within an inner city community center, Pillsbury House Theatre is a diverse company of artists working in partnership with diverse audiences to create transformational arts experiences. The Theatre received a two-year grant of \$19,000 in support of the development and production of new works by emerging playwrights on the mainstage and an annual reading series of new works by emerging playwrights. One reading in each series generally includes an extended workshop with actors and a director.

## **JEROME FOUNDATION FY 2007 Grants Awarded in Theater**

### **The Playwrights' Center**

THE PLAYWRIGHTS' CENTER, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$168,000 in support of the Many Voices Residency Program and the Jerome Fellowship Program. This continues support that the Foundation has awarded to emerging playwrights for fellowships since 1976. The Center fuels the theater by providing services that support playwrights and playwriting. Two-year support of \$46,000 is dedicated to the Many Voices Residency Program, which encourages the voices of playwrights often overlooked and to respond to an increasingly diversified local and regional culture. An open call and competitive review results in the selection of eight writers of color who work with two facilitators in sessions consisting of writing exercises, readings of works-in-progress, critiques, professional coaching and community building. Stipends, readings, working with mentors and additional opportunities are provided. The Jerome Fellowship Program at the Center has provided over \$1 million to 136 emerging playwrights. Six playwrights each year receive financial support, readings, workshops, literary services, and development opportunities. The Fellowship buys time, creates community and offers professional advancement opportunities.

### **Playwrights Horizons**

PLAYWRIGHTS HORIZONS, New York City, received \$23,000 in support of the participation of emerging playwrights in the American Voice artistic development programs and Peter Jay Sharp Theater productions. The mission of Playwrights Horizons is to support and develop the work of contemporary American playwrights, composers and lyricists, and to produce their new plays and musicals. It has consistently served as a launching pad for emerging writers as well as a home for established writers to bring their new work. Jerome support is directed toward developmental and production programs. This encompasses review of script submissions, play readings, musical theater workshops, commissions and productions.

### **Queens Theatre in the Park**

QUEENS THEATRE IN THE PARK, Flushing, New York, received \$10,000 in support of the Immigrant Voices Project, a new play development program for emerging artists who reflect and address issues relevant to the ethnically diverse county of Queens. The Theatre provides performing arts activities for the residents of Queens and fosters greater cultural awareness and appreciation of artists' works. The Immigrant Voices Project provides opportunities for playwrights to present and develop their work through readings, workshops and productions. The Queens Theatre in the Park works with Manhattan-based theater companies on co-productions of plays developed through the Project. Jerome funding will support works that are developed, read and presented in the 2006-07 and 2007-08 seasons.

### **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 writer and the script.

### **Soho Repertory Theatre**

SOHO REPERTORY THEATRE, New York City, develops unconventional plays, cultivating new work from first impulse 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. Developmental 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. Each year, the Lab supports the growth of three new works ranging in style, content, aesthetic, and cultural perspective.