



**For Immediate Release**

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**33 New York Theater Companies Receive a Total of \$2 Million from New York Theater Program**

**New York, NY (July 9, 2008)** –New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) has announced the 33 New York City-based theater companies that will receive New York Theater Program grants, which range in amount from \$10,000 to \$150,000. The program is funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the total to be granted out is \$2 million.

The following theater companies have received New York Theater Program grants: 3-Legged Dog, The 52nd Street Project, The Atlantic Theater Company, Brooklyn Arts Exchange (BAX), The Builders Association, The Civilians, Classic Stage Company, Dixon Place, Epic Theatre Center, The Flea Theater, The Foundry Theatre, HERE Arts Center, INTAR, The Lark Play Development Center, Mabou Mines, MCC Theater, Ma-Yi Theater Company, Mint Theater Company, The New Group, The Ontological-Hysteric Theater, Ping Chong & Company, The Play Company, Pregones Theater, Primary Stages, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Repertorio Español, SITI Company, Soho Repertory Theater, Target Margin Theater, Theatre for a New Audience, The Vineyard Theater, Women's Project, and The Wooster Group.

“Playwrights, performers and designers come from all over the world to hone their craft in New York, and the City’s nonprofit theaters have long been incubators for developing daring new work and fostering top talent,” said NYFA Executive Director Michael L. Royce. “Our hope is that by providing financial support for not just core needs but also artistic needs, these theaters can continue to produce the very imaginative work that defines New York as the unique and great City that it is – not to mention the world’s epicenter for theater.”

Developed collaboratively by NYFA and The Mellon Foundation, the program features three-year grants that were awarded to the above-mentioned New York theater companies, each of which has an operating budget ranging from \$300,000 to \$3.5 million. Grant recipients were selected by a panel consisting of national theater professionals and leaders in the field. Criteria used by the panel included artistic merit, sound management and the importance and appropriateness of the proposed work.

“Pregones is a place with roots to grow a lasting Latino performing arts legacy in New York City, and with wings to carry our art far and wide, and we are grateful to The Mellon Foundation and NYFA for recognizing it,” said Rosalba Rolon, Artistic Director.

A New York Theater Program Core Support grant enables a theater to make investments in strengthening its infrastructure in key areas where it needs to build permanent capacity. Supported expenses could include, but are not limited to, increasing salaries, space rental

costs, additional weeks of rehearsal, investments in marketing or development; the piloting of a new artistic program or a new adult- or college-level education program, or the hiring of additional staff. An Artistic Vision grant provides an infusion of capital for artistically ambitious one-time events, opportunities or productions, such as: collaborations, tour expansion, larger-scale productions or those reaching a different demographic for the theater.

New York Theater Program grant recipients will also be eligible for additional enhancement funds of up to \$2,000 for such purposes as travel, research, documentation, professional development, convening and office equipment (e.g., computers).

NYFA's New York Theater Program is the successor to a Mellon program for New York theaters that was administered by the Alliance of Resident Theaters/New York from 2001 through 2007.

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#### **About The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**

**The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** ([www.mellon.org](http://www.mellon.org)) is a private philanthropic institution that makes grants on a selective basis to institutions of higher education, independent libraries, centers for advanced study, museums, art conservation, and performing arts organizations. 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.

#### **About New York Foundation for the Arts**

Founded in 1971, **New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA)** empowers artists and arts organizations at critical stages in their creative lives by providing nearly \$6 million annually in all disciplines. NYFA manages the largest database of information about awards, services and opportunities for artists. In the wake of September 11<sup>th</sup>, NYFA created and administered the New York Arts Recovery Fund, and distributed \$4.6 million from various sources, including The Mellon Foundation, which supported 135 organizations and 352 individuals.