

The Theatre Communications Group|International Theatre Institute (TCG|ITI) Travel Grants have been designed to foster cultural exchange and artistic partnerships between theatre professionals in the United States and their counterparts in Russia and Eastern and Central Europe (see section outlining geographic scope). These \$3,000 grants will support trips in either direction by theatre artists, administrators and educators, enabling these professionals to share ideas, gain exposure to each other's cultural traditions and contemporary theatre techniques and/or work together. In addition to fostering existing creative exchanges and partnerships, the grants will enable U.S. theatre professionals to identify potential partners for future work. Recipients for spring 2007 can begin travel no earlier than July 1, 2007, and all travel must be completed by January 31, 2008. Recipients for fall 2007 can begin no earlier than January 21, 2008, and all travel must be completed by July 31, 2008. TCG staff is available to help recipients with introductions. Since a goal of the program is to support a wide range of projects, these guidelines have been designed to be as flexible and as inclusive as possible.

TCG believes in promoting greater diversity within the U.S. theatre and to give voice to the talent, vision and creative energy of the country's culturally diverse society, and in fostering cross-cultural interaction with international colleagues. In November 1999, the U.S. Center of the International Theatre Institute, an organization founded by UNESCO with a distinguished 50-year history of support for international theatre exchange, became part of TCG. The consolidation of TCG, with its large network of U.S. theatres, and ITI, with its global network of more than 90 centers, has created a significant expansion of TCG's international activities. The TCG|ITI Travel Grants are funded by the Trust for Mutual Understanding, a private foundation dedicated to cultural and environmental exchange between the United States, Russia and Eastern and Central Europe. Since 1986, the Trust has enabled ITI to support exchanges and partnerships between artists of the U.S. and most of the countries of the region, allowing U.S. artists and theatres to support their partner theatres during a time of immense upheaval and a sometimes perilous transition period.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants already receiving funds directly from the Trust for Mutual Understanding for the proposed project are not eligible for a TCG|ITI Travel Grant.

Theatres applying on behalf of theatre professional(s)

Applicant theatre companies must meet the following requirements:

- U.S. not-for-profit, tax exempt status;
- Professional orientation and high artistic standards;
- Employment of professional artists and administrators.

Individual theatre professional(s)

A candidate applying as an individual theatre professional must:

- be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the U.S.;
- wish to initiate, continue or deepen relationships with artists and/or theatre companies in Russia and/or Eastern and Central Europe.

Theatre professional(s) who are affiliated with or employed by a U.S. theatre company that will be involved in the international work must be sponsored by that theatre and may not apply as an individual.

For guidance or further information, contact Sheela Kangal, Senior Artistic Programs Associate, at skangal@tcg.org.

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

These grants will support travel in either direction between theatre professionals in the U.S. and their counterparts in Russia or Central/Eastern Europe, including Albania, Belarus, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Herzegovina, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Russia, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Ukraine and Yugoslavia. The independent Baltic States and those of Central Asia that were formerly part of the Soviet Union are not currently within the geographic scope of the program.

ALLOWABLE COSTS

Travel Grants of \$3,000 may cover transportation, out-of-town living expenses and other expenses essential to the project such as research materials, communication costs, theatre tickets and/or the services of an interpreter. All travel must be based on the least expensive available fares. In the case of airfare, this is usually an economy class, nonrefundable, round-trip ticket. None of the funding may be used to support a traveler's salary or anyone's performance salary or fee. The grants will be issued to the theatre or theatre professional in two installments: \$2,500 upon TCG's receipt of the signed letter of agreement and \$500 upon TCG's acceptance of a narrative and expense report from the recipient. The U.S. recipient will administer all funds for collaborators from Russia and Eastern and Central Europe.

TIME LINES

SPRING 2007	FALL 2007
April 30, 2007 Application postmark deadline	October 26, 2007 Application postmark deadline
Week of June 25, 2007 Notification of applicants	Week of January 14, 2008 Notification of applicants
July 1, 2007 Earliest start date for travel	January 21, 2008 Earliest start date for travel
January 31, 2008 All travel must be complete	July 31, 2008 All travel must be complete

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be postmarked by the deadlines listed above. Applications that are incomplete, handwritten and or faxed will not be considered. Applications must be clearly typed or word-processed on 8.5 x 11" paper using a font no smaller than 11 point Times New Roman. Please clip pages together. Do not staple. All applicants are responsible for providing an English translation of any material not written in English. Only one proposal may be submitted per applicant or theatre. An application from a U.S. theatre company must be signed by its artistic leader. Applicants should be sure to retain a copy of the application for their files.

SELECTION CRITERIA

An independent national selection panel of experienced theatre professionals with a background in international arts exchange with Russia and/or Eastern and Central Europe will review proposals and select recipients. The panel will be looking for proposals with a clearly articulated plan that addresses the following criteria:

- Accomplishments of the professionals involved;
- Achieved performance standards of the theatres/artists involved;
- Evidence of the applicant's interest and/or experience in international work or cross-cultural exchange;
- Other reasons for wanting to engage in the proposed activities;
- Evidence of commitment, ability and a clear plan to develop the proposed relationship or project;
- Appropriateness of the proposed budget;
- Potential results of the trip(s)

One-third of the grants will be awarded as seed money to foster new collaborations, one-third will be awarded to support established relationships, and one-third will be awarded at the discretion of the selection panel.

GRANT REQUIREMENTS

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the information provided. If a Travel Grant is approved, any change in plans must be requested in advance and approved in writing by Emily Cachapero, Director of Artistic Programs/Director, International Theatre Institute, U.S.

A narrative and expense report outlining activities supported by the TCG|ITI Travel Grants will be required within four weeks of completing travel. The accumulated knowledge and experience fostered by these grants are of enormous value in furthering international work and creativity. The information provided by the reports will become a major resource for future work. TCG will provide the recipients with the appropriate report forms.

Throughout the grant period, the following credit must appear in host theatre's and/or theatre professional's program and all other appropriate printed materials in connection with public developmental activities, including workshops and readings, which are a part of the TCG|ITI Travel Grants Program and premiere productions which result from it:

"Host theatre" and/or "Theatre professional" are participants in the TCG|ITI Travel Grants Program, a project funded by the Trust for Mutual Understanding and administered by Theatre Communications Group.

Spring

New York-based playwright **Jeff Baron** traveled to Zagreb, Croatia, to work with **Planet Art** on the translation, casting and design of his play *Mr. & Mrs. God*. Artistic collaborators on the project included Planet Art's Artistic Director, Marko Torjanac.

Joanna Sherman, Artistic Director of New York City's **Bond Street Theatre**, traveled to Bosnia where she worked with the Bulgarian theatre company Theatre Tsvete to organize the second meeting of the Performing Artists for Balkans Peace, in conjunction with Mostar Youth Theatre's International Festival of Authorial Poetics.

Actor and theatre educator **Marisa C. Hayes** of Newport, KY, traveled to Brasov, Romania, to participate in the third annual Said In Context Theatre Festival, where she gave readings, co-developed workshop performances and adjudicated the festival's youth competition. Ms. Hayes also visited Serbia and Montenegro and participated in the Amala School's summer arts exchange.

Susan Claassen, Managing Artistic Director **Invisible Theatre** (Tucson, AZ) attended the Georgian International Festival of Arts in the Republic of Georgia. During the festival, Ms. Claassen performed her play *A Conversation with Edith Head*.

New York City's **Mabou Mines** co-artistic director **Sharon Fogarty** traveled to the Czech Republic to collaborate with digital artist Misha Zabranska and Misha Votruba on *Finn*, a mythological tale based on the Celtic legend of Finn McCool. *Finn* combines live performance with digital motion capture.

Director **Christopher Jay Markle** and actor **Melissa Hawkins** of Dekalb, IL, returned to Cluj, Romania, with the final production of Andras Visky's one-woman show *Julia (Juliet): A Dialogue About Love*. The performance took place at the School of Theatre and Television of the University of Babes-Bolyai.

Polish director **Tadeusz Bradecki** traveled to **Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre (PICT)** to direct *Endgame*, the centerpiece of the theatre's 2006 BeckettFest.

Author, designer and director **Theodora Skipatares** of New York City traveled to the Czech Republic to meet to consult with several puppet artists, including those of Tineola Theater and Drak Theatre.

Fall

Double Edge Theatre (Ashfield, MA) will host two Polish artists, composer **Jacek Ostaszewki** and visual artist **Mira Zelechower-Aleksion**, who will collaborate with the company on *Republic of Dreams*, an original work based on the writings and life of Polish-Jewish artist Bruno Schulz. *Republic of Dreams* will have its world premiere at LaMama, ETC (New York, NY) in March 2007, which will include an opening night concert and exhibition by these collaborating artists.

Ron Bieganski, Artistic Director of **Free Street Theater** (Chicago, IL) and Free Street Creative Director Anita Evans will travel to Goleniow, Poland, where they will partner with Teatr Brama to exchange ideas and practices in youth training and community building through theater.

Playwright **Ashlin Halfnight**, dramaturg **Emily Long** and producer **Melanie Sylan** will travel from New York City to Budapest to collaborate with the Merlin International Theatre and company members from the Hungarian National Theatre on a workshop of Mr. Halfnight's play, *Family Dinner*.

Steve Bailey, Education Director of **Jump Start Performance Co.** (San Antonio, TX) will travel to Banska Bystrica, Slovakia to observe the work of Divadlo z Pasaze (Theatre from the Passage). Both companies work with individuals who have mental illness and/or learning disabilities and Mr. Bailey's trip will allow an exchange of performance techniques and arts education methodologies. The companies will also investigate the possibility of future collaborations.

Perseverance Theatre (Douglas, AK) will host Moscow-based movement instructor **Natalia Fedorova**. Ms. Fedorova will choreograph the company's production of *Equus*, by Peter Shaffer, as well as lead workshops for the acting company.

Rosalba Rolón, Artistic Director of **Pregones Theater** (Bronx, NY) will travel to Banska Bystrica, Slovakia with composer **Desmar Guevara** and Pregones' Associate Artistic Director **Jorge Merced**. They will collaborate with Flemish and Slovakian theatre companies on *Brides*, a new musical that blends multiple cultures, languages and performance styles to present iconic representations of women and weddings.

Company members of **Trap Door Theatre** (Chicago, IL), including founding Artistic Director, **Beata Pilch**, have been invited to several international theatre festivals in Romania, where they will perform *Old Clown Wanted*, by Romanian playwright Matei Visniec. They will also attend festival events and seminars, to exchange ideas and methods with fellow international artists.

Spring

Director **Erica Gould** of NYC was invited to work with the **Dah Theatre Research Centre** in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro. Ms. Gould participated in workshops devoted to cross-cultural exchange and creating bridges between theatre artists from different countries and artistic backgrounds. She also adapted *Dictionary of the Khazars*, Serbian novelist Milorad Pavic's novel about ethnic and religious strife among Christians, Muslims and Jews.

Chris Green traveled to Bulgaria to fulfill the third phase of a long-term collaborative project that he has been developing between experimental puppeteers and archaeologists. In addition, Mr. Green was invited to observe the third annual **International Puppet Theatre Festival for Adults "PIERROT 2005"** in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria, and to document the festival's "Director's Lab."

John Hofland, associate professor in theatre arts/communications arts at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA, met with representatives from the **Odessa Puppet Theatre** in Ukraine to explore how drama exercises can be used to teach disadvantaged children.

Director and dramaturge **Roberta Levitow** of Santa Monica, CA, returned to Bucharest, Romania, to meet with writers from the **National University of Theatre and Cinematography** and **dramAcum (Drama Now)**. Ms. Levitow shared playwriting materials, scripts and her own dramaturgical techniques in new play development.

New York-based duo Librettist **Ruth Margraff** and composer **Nikos Brisco** were invited to the **Karantena International Performing Arts Festival** in Dubrovnik, Croatia, where they performed original songs and scenes from their Greek/Ottoman inspired "world folk opera" **CAFÉ ANTARSIA**.

Director **Christopher Jay Markle** and actress **Melissa Hawkins** traveled from Chicago, IL, to Cluj Napoca, Romania, to rehearse Andras Visky's one-woman show *Julia (Juliet): A Dialogue About Love* along with the playwright. Mr. Markle also met with Romanian theatre artists with whom he had had worked previously.

Writer and director **Peter Petralia** of Brooklyn, NY, was invited to write a new theatre piece in collaboration with Russian artists as part of "**Capturing the Moving Mind**," a conference that took place on the Trans-Siberian Railway from Moscow to Beijing.

Co-artistic directors **George Ashiotis** and **Ike Schambelan** of **Theater By The Blind** in New York City traveled with stage manager **Ann Morelli** and a group of actors to Zagreb, Croatia, to attend the **4th International Blind and Visually Impaired Theatre Festival**.

Fall

Jessica Burr artistic director and **Matt Opatrny** managing director of New York City's **blessed unrest** will travel to Prishtina, Kosova to further their creative exchange with Teatri Oda. While in Prishtina, Ms. Burr and Mr. Opatrny, along with artists from the blessed unrest and Teatri Oda companies, will hold actor training workshops, roundtable discussions, and share audience development strategies. In addition, the blessed unrest company and an Oda actor will perform *Lying*, a play about crossing barriers of understanding.

Stacy Klein founder and artistic director of Double Edge Theatre in Ashfield, MA will travel to Poland, Hungary and the Ukraine with co-creator and producing director **Carlos Uriona** and managing director **Matthew Glassman**. While abroad, they will conduct research for the creation of Double Edge's original performance, *Under the Sign of the Crocodile*, based on the drawings, letters, and fiction of Bruno Schulz.

New York City-based playwright **Stacey Engels** and director **Donato Lemmo** will travel to Slovenia to research and develop a play based on the work of Slovenian painter Jozse Tisnikar (working title: *The Tisnikar Project*). Mr. Lemmo has also been invited to lead a workshop hosted by Slovenian theatre artist **Tomi Janezic**.

Playwright **Madelyn Kent** of Brooklyn, NY will travel to Belgrade to complete her adaptation of Friedrich Durrenmatt's *The Visit*. Ms. Kent will work closely with an artistic team including Belgrade-based theatre director and translator **Stefan Sablic** and choreographer **Boris Chaksiran**.

Director **Irina Niculescu** of Ann Arbor, MI has been invited by **Theatre Colibri** and the **National Theatre of Craiova** in Romania to direct a play for youth and young adults. **Ms. Niculescu** will produce an adaptation of Carlo Gozzi's "Green Bird". The production will feature the work of American composer John Lewandowski and a cast of actors and puppeteers

The **Sundance Institute Theatre Program** will host Russian theatre director and producer **Eduard Boyakov** at the 2006 Sundance Theatre Lab in Sundance, UT. Mr. Boyakov will participate actively in Sundance's new play development methods with the goal of bringing the lab model back to his new playwrights' theater in Moscow.

Tom Sellar, editor of *Theater* magazine and assistant professor of dramaturgy and dramatic criticism at the Yale School of Drama, will travel to Budapest for editorial research for a forthcoming section on contemporary theatre in Hungary. The project will appear in *Theater* magazine in early 2007.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please be sure to include all of the following materials clipped together in the order in which they are listed below. Do not staple. The number of copies required appears in parentheses.

- Application Form (typed and signed) (2)
- Traveler's Resume or Bio listing professional credentials, not to exceed two pages (2)
- Theatre History and Mission, if applicable, not to exceed one page (2)
- Travel Grant Proposal of 3 pages or less (2)
- Letter(s) of Invitation (strongly recommended) (2)
- Itinerary and Budget Sheet (2)
- Proof of U.S. citizenship, permanent resident status or U.S. not-for-profit status (1)

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS

All applications for spring 2007 must be postmarked by April 30, 2007.

All applications for fall 2007 must postmarked by October 26, 2007.

SEND TO: Sheela Kangal, Senior Artistic Programs Associate,
TCG|ITI Travel Grants, Theatre Communications Group
520 Eighth Avenue, 24th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4156

These guidelines and application are available on TCG's website, www.tcg.org.

The **Trust for Mutual Understanding** was established in 1984 by an anonymous American philanthropist as a private, grant-making organization dedicated to promoting improved communication, closer cooperation, and greater respect between the people of the United States, the Soviet Union, and other countries in Eastern and Central Europe. The Trust makes grants to American nonprofit organizations conducting international cultural and environmental exchanges in partnership with institutions and individuals in Russia and Eastern and Central Europe. More information can be found on their website, www.tmuny.org.

Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, offers a wide array of services in line with its mission: to strengthen, nurture, and promote the professional not-for-profit American theatre. Through its artistic, management, and international programs, advocacy activities, and publications, 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 field. TCG has over 440 member theatres nationwide.