



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 23, 2009

### THEATER GROTTESCO RECEIVES MAJOR DUKE MELLON GRANT

*Santa Fe, N.M.*—Theater Grottesco has been awarded with the *New Generations: Future Leaders* grant from Theatre Communications Group (TCG.) The company is one of ten theaters nationwide to be selected for this grant in an extremely competitive application process.

The \$76,000 *New Generations: Future Leaders* grant funds an intensive mentorship between an exceptionally talented early-career theater professional and an established leader in the field. Artistic Director John Flax will mentor Managing Director Kate Kita in areas of artistic creation, production, outreach and community relations for two years as she pursues a career as a producing artistic director of ensemble-created theater.



Kate Kita

“We are honored, and quite frankly, thrilled by this award for many reasons” says Flax. “It is reassuring that our national service organization is looking to the future and providing serious on-site training for the next generation. In that regard, it is fabulous having Kate Kita with us. We concur with TCG’s assertion that Kate is a leader with enormous potential.”



John Flax and Kate Kita *Fortune*, 2007

The New Generations Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, has been an important initiative for the theater field since 2001, cultivating artistic, philosophical and generational diversity in American theater.



Kita, left and Flax, right in *Grottesco's 12<sup>th</sup> Night*, 2008

Funds from the award will cover Kita's salary through December 2011, and provide travel and networking opportunities for both artists. An additional \$15,000 was made available to pay off Kita's student loans, and The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation contributed a supplementary grant of \$14,117 in general operating funds to Theater Grottesco in order to ensure organizational stability during these financially difficult times.

New Generations Program applications were reviewed by an independent national selection panel comprised of noted leaders in the theater field. Other 2009 Future Leaders recipients are: The Atlantic Theater Company (New York, NY), Chicago Dramatists (Chicago, IL), Classical Theatre of Harlem (New York, NY), Dell'Arte International (Blue Lake, CA), Huntington Theatre Company, (Boston, MA), Pasadena Playhouse (Pasadena, CA), Redmoon Theater (Chicago, IL), Second Stage Theatre (New York, NY) and The Talking Band (New York, NY).

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

Founded in 1983 in Paris, France, Theater Grottesco creates a new kind of performance that is visual, explosive and full of surprise. This highly trained ensemble of artists rekindles interest in live performance by juxtaposing classical theatrical styles with a daring, poetic research of culture and imagination, taking audiences to the brink of emotional wonder and soulful reflection.

Theater Grottesco is funded by New Mexico Arts: a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission and the 1% Lodger's Tax, and the New Mexico Tourism Department. Theater Grottesco is also a participant in the *A-ha! Program*, funded by MetLife, and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for American theatre.

## **INTERVIEWS AND ADDITIONAL IMAGES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST**

[www.theatergrottesco.org](http://www.theatergrottesco.org)

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