

MUKTI FUND

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MUKTI FUND ANNOUNCES 2010 QUEER YOUTH THEATER GRANTS TOTALING \$122,000

May 26, 2010, Key West, Florida.

The Mukti Fund, a small private foundation based in Key West, Florida established in 1983, announced the awarding of grants totaling \$122,000 to ten queer youth theatres around the country.

Dr. Martin Dupuis, a trustee, explained "the vision of the Mukti Fund is to use innovative theater programs as a vehicle for education and social change. We believe queer youth theater presents the youth involved with opportunities to achieve their full potential."

In recent years Mukti Fund has been involved in funding queer youth projects nationally and collaborated with the Queer Youth Fund. In late 2008, the Queer Youth Theater Fund was established, and grants totaling over \$107,000 were made in 2009 to nine queer youth theatres. "Our goal has been to support existing and newer queer youth theaters around the country that work with youth to tell their stories about growing up queer in society," according to Weston Milliken, Mukti's vice-president.

2010 Queer Youth Theater Fund grants are being awarded to:

+About Face

Chicago, IL 60640 \$15,000

Grant will support expansion of the current programs and particularly QUEERTOPIA Performance telling autobiographical stories of queer youth and the issues of violence they face.

(www.aboutfacetheatre.com.)

+Add Verb Productions

Portland, ME 04104 \$ 10,000

Grant will support their Queer and Allied Writing Project providing opportunities for youth to create and share original performance pieces.

(www.addverbproductions.com, info@addverbproductions.com)

+Ann Arbor Teen Center

Ann Arbor, MI 48104 \$15,000

Grant for the Gayrilla Theatre Troupe for performances to relay the findings of a youth led participatory research project and working toward creating a more positive school climate for Queer students.
(www.neutral-zone.org)

+Dreams of Hope

Pittsburgh, PA 15206 \$12,000

Grant to support Performance Program's queer youth leadership training, three productions and outreach performances to non traditional venues.

A second grant of \$5,250 was awarded earlier this year for a summer camp in August, 2010 for Queer youth.
(www.dreamsofhope.org)

+New Conservatory Theater Center

San Francisco, CA 94102 \$15,000

Grant to support the expansion of their YouthAware Educational Theatre Series by sending two anti-homophobic, pro diversity programs to schools across rural central and northern California.

(<http://www.nctcsf.org/YouthAware.html>)

+Pride Players (part of Omaha Theater Company)

Omaha, NE 68102 \$15,000

Grant will allow for creation of a new performance piece, sharing scenes on YouTube, and expansion of their ability to tour to community groups in Iowa and Nebraska.

(<http://rosetheater.org>)

+Proud Players

Monona, WI 53716 \$10,000

Grant to expand existing work in Madison, WI area and tours to community groups in larger geographical area, and help create a mentorship program.

(charty@tds.net)

+QSpeak Theatre (part of Phoenix Theatre)

Phoenix, AZ 85004 \$5,000 and a \$5,000 challenge grant

Grant will support play development workshops and training of queer youth in all aspects of production of scripted and original works. Youth will then create an original work based on the theme of queer youth homelessness.

In 2009, QSpeak was awarded a \$5,000 challenge grant which was met in early 2010.

(www.phoenixtheatre.org)

+Theatre Askew

New York, NY 10276 \$15,000

Grant to commission with Queer youth from the New York area an original theatrical piece structured on the psychological model of resiliency and relating to famous characters from myth and literature. The piece will be performed in June of 2011 and tour throughout New York City.
(<http://theatreaskew.com/taype.htm>)

+The Theater Offensive

Cambridge, MA 02139 \$10,000

Grant will allow expansion by True Colors of youth leadership opportunities with a summer program expansion and the piloting of a new True Colors touring troupe.
(<http://www.thetheateroffensive.org/truecolors.html>)

In announcing these grant, Michael Dively, President and Founder of Mukti Fund said, “ By bringing queer youth stories to their communities via their performance pieces, voice is given to the challenges and fears they face today. By the sharing of these queer youth stories through theater we believe young people can be empowered and audiences transformed.”

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