

MUKTI FUND
101 TRESCONY ST.
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

MUKTI FUND ANNOUNCES 2011 QUEER YOUTH THEATER
GRANTS TOTALING \$157,800

April 28, 2011, Santa Cruz, CA.

The Mukti Fund, a small private foundation based in Key West, Florida established in 1983, announced the awarding of grants totaling \$157,800 to thirteen queer youth theatres around the country.

Dr. Martin Dupuis, a trustee, noted: "This is our third year of funding queer youth theater, and the impact of this work on the performers and on the audience is profound. Young people are empowered and minds are opening."

In recent years Mukti Fund has been involved in funding queer youth projects nationally and has collaborated with the Queer Youth Fund. In late 2008, the Queer Youth Theater Fund was established, and grants totaling over a quarter of a million dollars were made in 2009 and 2010 to queer youth theatres. "Mukti Fund's current mission is to empower queer youth to find their voice and tell their stories in a traditional theater environment. It is a pleasure to see how successful these theater projects have been," according to Weston Milliken, Mukti's vice-president.

2011 Queer Youth Theater Fund grants were awarded to:

+About Face Theater

Chicago, IL 60640 \$13,000

Grant to support expansion of the current programs of the youth theater including workshops and performance of new pieces in high schools and community centers in Chicago and the surrounding area.

(www.aboutfacetheatre.com)

+Add Verb Productions/University of New England

Portland, ME 04104 \$ 8,500

Grant to support their continuing Queer and Allied Project that develops, produces and publish performance pieces celebrating queer youth.

(www.addverbproductions.com)

+Ann Arbor Teen Center

Ann Arbor, MI 48104 \$10,000

Grant for Riot Youth and its Gayrilla Theatre, to compete an evaluation project looking at the climate for Queer Youth in the Ann Arbor area and to share these findings to help create positive school changes.

(www.neutral-zone.org)

+Buddies in Bad Times Theatre

Toronto, Canada M4Y1B4 \$5,000

Grant will fund a 12 week queer youth arts project on LGBT History culminating in a performance at Buddies' Pride Festival.

(www.buddiesinbadtimes.com)

+Dreams of Hope

Pittsburgh, PA 15206 \$12,000

Grant to help in a transition from a single-person operation to one that is self-sustaining and thriving in the future and to expand youth outreach performances to non-traditional venues.

(www.dreamsofhope.org)

+Fringe Benefits

Los Angeles, CA 90039 \$10,000

Grant for a collaboration with Pomona and Claremont Colleges to offer a Queer Theatre Activism Project/Course to create a new generation of queer theatre activists and to foster a long term relationship with the Claremont colleges.

(www.cootieshots.org)

+New Conservatory Theater Center

San Francisco, CA 94102 \$10,000

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

(www.nctcsf.org/YouthAware.html)

+Pride Players (part of Omaha Theater Company)

Omaha, NE 68102 \$15,000

Grant supports creating a new performance piece and touring it, increasing on-line presence, and beginning a two year research project on queer youth theatre.

A second \$16,315 grant was also awarded to Omaha Theater to organize and administer the second annual Queer Youth Theater Retreat to be held in Omaha, NE July, 2010 for artistic directors of selected queer youth theaters to network and exchange ideas.

(www.rosetheater.org)

+Proud Theater

Madison, WI 53716 \$7,500 and a 2010 challenge grant of \$2,500

Grant to expand existing work in Madison, WI area working with youth to learn theatre, team building, and the creation of performance pieces. Grant also supports a proposed new program in Pride Theater in Wassau, WI.

(www.proudtheater.org.)

+Queer Youth Theatre Collaboration Project
c/o The Theater Offensive
Cambridge, MA 02139 \$15,000

Grant will support a three-day fall collaborative queer youth theatre retreat in Boston developed by three participating organizations: Dreams of Hope, Theatre Offensive, and Omaha Theatre Company/Pride Players.

+QSpeak Theatre (of Phoenix Theatre)
Phoenix, AZ 85004 \$5,000 was awarded in 2009 and a \$5,000 challenge grant was awarded which was met in early 2010.

Grant supported workshops and training of queer youth in creation and production of an original work based on the theme of queer youth homelessness.

(www.phoenixtheatre.org)

Rainbow Pride Youth Alliance
San Bernardino, CA 92407 \$5,500

Grant provides ongoing program support for youth actors developing their skills and performing at San Bernardino area venues.

(www.rpya.org)

+Theatre Askew
New York, NY 10276 \$10,000 and a 2011 challenge grant of \$2,500.

Grant commissions a third original play: "What's in a Name?". Plot material will be developed through workshops with NYC area queer youth and lead by a professional director and playwright. The piece will be performed in a Manhattan theatre.

(<http://theatreakew.com/taype.htm>)

+The Theater Offensive
Cambridge, MA 02139 \$10,000

Grant expands True Colors' youth leadership opportunities by engaging them in community-based collective creation workshops and residencies.

(<http://www.thetheateroffensive.org/truecolors.html>)

In announcing these grant, Michael Dively, President and Founder of Mukti Fund said, "We believe queer youth theater presents the youth involved with unique opportunities to achieve their full potential. Our support of existing and newer queer youth theaters around the country that work with youth empowers them to speak their voice and tell their stories about growing up queer in our society"

+++++