

2014-2015 Saints Grants Awards

The Saints Organization announced \$100,000 in grants to 22 performing arts groups in the Chicago metropolitan area. The grants, ranging in amounts from \$800 to \$7500, were awarded to theater, dance, and music organizations for projects in the 2014-2015 performance year. From 1995 to the present, The Saints Organization has contributed \$500,000 in grants to a variety of venues.

Projects may fund the commission of new works, enhance a performance space, or pay for much needed lighting, sound, or electronic equipment. Evaluation criteria looked at the project proposal, financial viability, legal verification, in addition to special consideration for collaboration with other arts groups as well as the targeting of new audiences. The grant application process was entirely web-based.

Awardees range in size from tiny, obscure black box theaters to some of our best known, world class venues and represented a variety of locations throughout the Chicago metro area.

Grants are awarded by the Saints Grants Commission, all volunteers, who evaluated a total of 134 proposals. The grants funding primarily comes from the dues that the 2200 Saints pay annually.

Congratulations to the twenty-two organizations awarded Saints Grants this year, listed below in alphabetical order:

AKAVIT THEATRE Chicago's only company devoted to contemporary theater from the Nordic countries will be able to get a laptop computer for various production and archival activities.

AMERICAN BLUES THEATER Chicago's second-oldest resident ensemble, in collaboration with Court Theatre, will develop a new adaptation of Richard Wright's *Native Son* by company member Nambi Kelley for the fall of 2014.

ARTEMISIA, A CHICAGO THEATRE The company devoted to plays about women will use the grant to fund a lead actress in their upcoming American premiere of *Belfast Girls* by Jaki McCarrick.

CHICAGO DANCE CRASH One of Chicago's most innovative dance companies will be constructing electronic costumes for their science fiction spectacular *Tron: End of Line* in August at Victory Gardens Theater.

CHICAGO DANZTHEATRE ENSEMBLE This exciting performance ensemble will be using the grant to purchase lights and sound equipment for *Unraveling Veterans Performance Project* about military families and the effects of PTSD at the National Veterans Art Museum.

CITY LIT THEATER COMPANY The veteran Edgewater company will buy a new computer-based multimedia system for their productions.

FILAMENT THEATRE ENSEMBLE Lincoln Square Theatre may not exist anymore, but their lighting equipment will be purchased by Filament for their new Portage Park location.

GENESIS THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS To hire director Kay Martinovich for the Chicago premiere of *Down Range* as part of their effort to include more women as playwrights, actors or directors at Uptown's National Pastime Theater.

THE GIFT THEATRE COMPANY The tiny Equity company in Jefferson Park will be using the grant to provide technical support and equipment that will allow them to do a musical for the first time.

HALCYON THEATRE To purchase a portable light console for use at their new home performance space in Albany Park.

HAYMARKET OPERA COMPANY The company devoted to 17th and 18th century opera will use the grant to fund artists for Scarlotti's *Gli equivoci nel sembiante*.

INTERROBANG THEATRE PROJECT To purchase new lighting and sound equipment for their upcoming season at the Athenaeum Theatre studios.

JACKALOPE THEATRE COMPANY To obtain lighting equipment to be used in their new location in Edgewater's Broadway Armory Park in a cultural partnership with the Chicago Park District.

MARY-ARRCHIE THEATRE CO To upgrade sound and lighting equipment at this well established Wrigleyville location.

ORACLE THEATRE To fund sound design improvements at this public access theatre in Lakeview.

THE PLAGAIRISTS To purchase materials and provide a stipend for an artist to create puppets for *These Saints Will Burn*.

PRIDE FILMS AND PLAYS To fund royalties for finalists in PFP writing contests - Great Gay Play, Women's Work (plays by women with lesbian themes and Great Gay Screenplay).

PROFILES THEATRE To help purchase a modern sound and lighting system at the new Profiles space, The Main Stage, in Buena Park.

REDTWIST THEATRE To create and enhance the lighting for special flashback sequences in the world premiere play, *Geezers*, as well as future performances in Edgewater.

SIGNAL ENSEMBLE THEATRE To purchase tools and equipment for their new scene shop space in Northcenter.

STRAWDOG THEATRE COMPANY To purchase the latest LED lighting equipment for one of Chicago's most stalwart storefronts.

THEATRE-HIKES To partially fund the creator, artists and hike leader for their first commissioned play, *Ghost Stories*, an original work created by a Chicago team of artists and based on Chicago ghost stories.