Office for the Arts Announces Spring 2017 Grants

Over 300 students will participate in dance, multidisciplinary, music, theater and other projects at Harvard University this spring sponsored in part through funding from the Office for the Arts at Harvard (OFA) Project Grant Program. The funded projects, selected by the Council on the Arts at Harvard, include seven spring concerts of student music ensembles; three dance shows including the Asian American Dance Troupe’s 15th anniversary production; four interactive or site-specific theater pieces; and other projects such as the Kuumba Singers’ Black Arts Festival.

OFA grants are intended to seed a rich and varied student arts landscape in the College and to fund student artistic growth and learning through art making. Funded projects involve the undergraduate population and provide visibility for their artistic efforts, encourage collaboration, and feature original work or works that demonstrate creative approaches to existing work.

Council on the Arts members at the time of selection were: Robin Kelsey (Chair), Dean of Arts and Humanities, and Shirley Carter Burden Professor of Photography; Diane Borger, Producer of the American Repertory Theater; Federico Cortese, Senior Lecturer on Music, Conductor of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra; S. Allen Counter, Director, Harvard Foundation; Deborah Foster, Senior Lecturer on Theater, Dance, & Media; Jorie Graham, Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory; Christopher Hasty, Walter W. Naumburg Professor of Music; Jill Johnson, Dance Director, OFA Dance Program, Senior Lecturer on Music; Ruth Stella Lingford, Professor of the Practice of Animation, Film Study Center Fellow; Cathleen McCormick, Director of Programs, Office for the Arts; Jack Megan, Director, Office for the Arts; Diane Paulus ’88, Artistic Director, American Repertory Theater; Matt Saunders ’97, Assistant Professor of Visual and Environmental Studies; Elaine Scarry, Walter M. Cabot Professor of Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value and Senior Fellow of the Society of Fellows; and Marcus Stern, Associate Director, American Repertory Theater/MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.

The OFA, which administers the grants, offers support for projects taking place during fall and spring semesters. For further information, visit ofa.fas.harvard.edu.

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PRESS RELEASE

Spring 2017 GRANTS

DANCE

Breakeasy 5, Peter Chang ’18, Harvard Breakers: ESTHER KA·HN GRANT to support an annual jam in which the Harvard and Boston breakdance communities will compete and share dance styles.

Eastbound 2017, Grant Zhao ’18, Asian American Dance Troupe: ECKSTEIN LIPSON GRANT to support AADT’s 15th anniversary show featuring a Mongolian group dance, an assortment of Korean pop pieces, and a modern fusion fan dance, among others.

Cityscapes, Monica Song ’19, Harvard Ballet Company: ESTHER KAHN GRANT to support the company’s spring show inspired by the uniting aspects of city life.

TAPS Spring Show, Marina Adario ’17, Harvard TAPS: ESTER KAHN GRANT to support Harvard’s only tap-dancing company’s production, which will feature pieces choreographed by students and guest performances from other rhythmic and dance groups.

LITERATURE

Ecdysis Spring Issue, Trevor Chistolini ’18, Ecdysis Magazine: OFA GRANT to support a publication featuring written, visual, film, and auditory student work that uncovers the many relationships between the arts and the sciences.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY

Africa Night: Royalty, History of the Empire, Ozichi Osuoha ’19, Harvard African Student Association (HASA) and BlackCAST: RICHARD SOLOMON GRANT to support an annual celebration of African culture including fashion, literature, photography, music, and theater in addition to HASA’s 40th anniversary.

Black Arts Festival, Fatah Adan ’19, Kuumba Singers of Harvard College: HERBERT TODD COBEY GRANT to support an event that highlights and celebrates the history and traditions of Black art.

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PRESS RELEASE

MUSIC

47th Annual Dean Archie C. Epps Spring Concert, Lauren Nicholson ‘18, Kuumba Singers of Harvard College: ESTHER KAHN GRANT to support a concert featuring music and stories that reflect the many facets of the African Diaspora, honoring Dean Archie C. Epps, one of the first prominent Black administrators at Harvard.

Bach Society Orchestra Spring 2017 Concerts, Mengting Qiu ‘18, Bach Society Orchestra: ESTHER KAHN GRANT to support two free concerts featuring traditional and newly composed music that make classical music accessible to a wide audience.

Le Nozze di Figaro, Camille Belanger ‘19, Harvard College Opera Society (HCO): HERBERT TODD COBEY GRANT to support HCO’s 25th Anniversary production of Mozart’s masterpiece, sung by HCO for the first time in its original language.

MINHUET Crooners, Thomas Lee ‘19, Harvard-Radcliffe MINHUET: ESTHER KAHN GRANT to bring music to the elderly and engage students in community service focusing on caregiving through music.

River Charles Ensemble (RCE) Spring 2017 Concert, Amy Zhao ‘18, River Charles Ensemble: ESTHER KAHN GRANT to support a spring concert by the conductor-less chamber orchestra.

Spring 2017 Concert, Joan Li ‘17, Harvard Pops Orchestra: ESTHER KAHN GRANT to support the Pops’ 20th anniversary concert, featuring some of the Pops’ past greatest hits, including West Side Story and Star Wars.

THUD Spring 2017 Concert, Nathan Siegelaub ‘18, The Harvard Undergraduate Drummers: ESTHER KAHN GRANT to support a spring concert by the percussion ensemble featuring traditional pieces along with music composed and/or arranged by group members performed on objects or instruments of their own creation.

THEATER

A Kind of Alaska, James Graham, ‘17: TIMOTHY S. MAYER GRANT to support a production in the Loeb Experimental Theater of Harold Pinter’s one-act play that explores constructed realities.

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PRESS RELEASE

THEATER (continued)

*Cabaret*, Mitchell Polonsky ’19: TIMOTHY S. MAYER GRANT to support an immersive, site-specific production of the politically relevant musical in the Cambridge Queen’s Head Pub.

*Fit for a King*, Emily Bergquist ’18: TIMOTHY S. MAYER GRANT to support an evening celebrating the history of women in Shakespeare, featuring an interactive gallery, discussion, and undergraduate women performing the kings of Shakespeare’s History Plays.

*In the Heights*, Sherry Gao ’19, Harvard College TEATROI: TIMOTHY S. MAYER GRANT to support an Agassiz Theater production of the musical at OBERON (second stage of the American Repertory Theater) that features stories from the largely Dominican-American neighborhood of Washington Heights in New York City.

*Lidless*, Deng-Tung Wang ’17: TIMOTHY S. MAYER GRANT to support a Loeb Experimental Theater production about an imagined future where Guantanamo Bay is a park, featuring an entirely Asian American cast and staff.


*SCAPE*, Jonathan Creed ’19: TIMOTHY S. MAYER GRANT to support a devised puppetry and physical theatre piece in the Loeb Experimental Theater that explores themes of suicide, isolation, and human connection.

*The Little Years*, Rachel Clemens, 19: TIMOTHY S. MAYER GRANT to support a production of John Mighton’s play exploring the barriers that women face in the fields of math and science performed in the SciBox at the Science Center.

*The Merchant of Venice*, James Graham ’17: HERBERT TODD COBEY GRANT to support a Loeb Experimental Theatre production of the Shakespeare play set in the early interwar period of Venice.

*The Room*, Mitchell Polonsky ’19: TIMOTHY S. MAYER GRANT to support a production of Harold Pinter’s absurdist one-act in the former Adams storage room renovated by Peter Sellars ‘80 in 1978 known as “Explosives B,” or the Molotov.

*Twelfth Night*, Jacob Roberts ’19: TIMOTHY S. MAYER GRANT to support a site-specific production of Shakespeare’s festive comedy, held outdoors in the Lowell Courtyard.

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PRESS RELEASE

VISUAL ARTS

Harvard Student Art Show, Eloise Lynton ’17: RICHARD SOLOMON GRANT to support the annual exhibition of student work that is curated, installed, and conceptualized by undergraduates, and featuring work submitted by students in the undergraduate and graduate communities.

The Office for the Arts at Harvard (OFA) supports student engagement in the arts and integrates the arts into University life. Through its programs and services, the OFA teaches and mentors, fosters student art making, connects students to accomplished artists, commissions new work, and partners with local, national, and international constituencies. By supporting the development of students as artists and cultural stewards, the OFA works to enrich society and shape communities in which the arts are a vital part of life. For more information about the OFA, call 617.495.8576, or visit ofa.fas.harvard.edu

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