



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS FOUNDATION
LAUNCH NEW GUEST ARTIST INITIATIVE PROGRAM

Matching grant of up to \$5000.00 to facilitate hiring of guest artist

The Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (SDCF), the not-for-profit foundation affiliated with the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers (SSDC), announces the launch of the SDCF Guest Artist Initiative Program, a new grant program for American colleges and universities to encourage the hiring of professional stage directors and choreographers as guest artists and to provide up to \$5000 in matching funds for the guest artist's fee.

Schools interested in applying for this program may apply online beginning May 15, 2009. An SDCF panel comprised of professional directors and choreographers, arts administrators, and college educators will select which production will be awarded the matching grant. SDCF will then furnish the chosen school with funds of up to \$5000 to match the fee budgeted for the guest artist. SDCF will also provide assistance by soliciting applications from professional stage directors and choreographers who wish to be considered for the project. Only full SSDC members, in good standing, will be considered for guest artist positions. All applications will be forwarded to the school and the school will make the ultimate decision.

In addition to this grant of up to \$5000, a second grant of \$1000 will be awarded to the runner-up applicant school.

Executive Director Laura Penn remarks, "One of the most important things that SDCF can do in this environment is to create valuable opportunities for professional directors and choreographers to practice their craft."

Applications for college and university productions and full grant guidelines will be available online at www.ssd.org/sdcf.php beginning May 15, 2009. The application deadline is October 15, 2009. The selected school will be announced by December 1, 2009 at which point information will be made available to interested directors and choreographers. The selected production must be mounted by May 31, 2011.

Founded in 1965, SDCF exists to foster, promote and develop the creativity and craft of stage directors and choreographers. SDCF's goals are to provide opportunities to practice the crafts of directing and choreography; to gather and disseminate craft and career information; to promote the profession to emerging talent; to provide opportunities for exchange of knowledge among directors and choreographers; and to increase the awareness of the value of directors' and choreographers' work.

Among SDCF's programs are: Observerships, through which emerging directors and choreographers are paid a stipend to observe master directors and choreographers working on new productions; Fellowships, opportunities for advanced emerging directors and choreographers; Hauptman Fellowship for arts administrators; the "Mr. Abbott" Award recognizing lifetime achievement in American Theatre and the Joe A. Callaway Award recognizing excellence in the craft of directing and/or choreography during the New York City theatre season.

For more information on the SDCF Guest Artist Initiative Program, please visit www.ssd.org/sdcf.php or email erusconi@ssdc.org.

###

Contact: Ellen Rusconi
erusconi@ssdc.org, (212) 302-5359 x244