CA$H | Theatre

A grants program of Theatre Bay Area

Theatre Grantees:

May 2021

### CA$H | Performs Grants

CA$H | PERFORMS GRANTS ARE $5,000 AWARDS INTENDED EITHER FOR THE FULLY PRODUCED PERFORMANCES OF AN ARTISTIC PROJECT THAT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC OR PROJECTS THAT SUPPORT THE CREATION OF MULTIPLE WORKS BY MULTIPLE ARTISTS. AWARDS ARE GIVEN TO BOTH ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS.

**Granny Cart Gangstas**

Granny Cart Gangstas' Revenge of the Dragonladies features Asian American womxn and non-gender binary comedians. Through sketch comedy pieces they explore the quirky, fantastical, mundane, and defiant experiences of today's Asian American womxn.

**CA$H (artistic project):** artists' fees, venue costs, marketing

**Kunoichi Productions**

*The True Tale of Princess Kaguya* is a modern retelling/re-imagining of the Japanese classic folktale *The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter*, written with a feminist twist and from a genderqueer perspective.

**CA$H (artistic project):** artists’ fees

**Ely Sonny Orquiza**

*The Tilting Point: Interrogating Conservatism in Filipino-American Culture* is a docudrama and a verbatim performance based on interviews and community dialogue that examines and interrogates the conservative values, anti-Blackness, and generational divide that are pervasive in the Filipino American communities.

**CA$H (artistic project):** artists’ fees, research costs, community outreach, audio transcription

**Fuse Theatre**

How do you forge and foster relationships when you cannot physically be with other people? Fuse will explore that central question in *Special Delivery* (working title), a devised theater piece that will convey its theatrical narrative to its audience through letters and other postal deliveries.

**CA$H (artistic project):** artists’ fees, production costs, carbon offsets

**Nkeiruka Oruche**

*Obi gbawara’m* is a multimeedium cultural theater project exploring personal stories of unresolved heartbreak, grief, and survival in Ndi Igbọ and her African Diaspora through the rapidly disappearing Igbo traditions of Ọdịnajọ and Ọmenala.

**CA$H (artistic project):** artists’ fees, technical costs

(Cont)
CONRAD A. PANGANIBAN, KRYSTLE PIAMONTE AND ALAN S. QUISMORIO  
San Francisco
This as-yet untitled project is a commission of two local Filipino American playwrights to examine and explore the works and contributions of the Filipino health care workers within the medical industry, particularly in the San Francisco Bay Area, in a country still rife with racism, stereotyping, and Othering. This new play aims to center the joy, authenticity, and empowerment of a community that has long been pushed in the margins.

CA$H (artistic project): artists’ fees

POLTERGEIST THEATRE PROJECT  
Berkeley
A celebration and journey of black queer self-love and the struggles that go along with it presented in a modern adaptation of classic Queer Cabaret and Vaudeville styles. By inviting Black Queer artists to tell their own stories in their own words, this piece will champion Black Queer joy.

CA$H (artistic project): artists’ fees

ADAM L SUSSMAN  
San Francisco
Intro to Being Here is an immersive, interactive Zoom show for kids and their families, in which audience members help characters who live on the internet make the transition from the virtual world to the real world. Audience members first create their characters as part of a video game, before meeting their creations embodied by actors over Zoom, and then coaching them on the do’s and don’ts of existing in the physical world.

CA$H (artistic project): artists’ fees

JUSTIN TAYLOR  
San Francisco
Both a live theater piece and sound ritual, Unblinking Eye follows Iris, a Nevada teenager who loves horses, hunting in the desert, and her first real job out of high school: firing hellfire missiles on pixelated people in Pakistan from an Air Force base in New Mexico. But the trauma of drone warfare eats at her conscience until, one day in the desert, it explodes awake with a message that rocks her, her base, and the US Military.

CA$H (artistic project): artists’ fees

CA$H | Creates Grants

CA$H | Creates Grants are $2,500 awards intended either for the development of an artistic project or capacity projects that improve the applicant’s ability to create or present art. Awards are given to both organizations and individuals.

HANNAH DWORINK AND MIN KAHNG  
Richmond
Opera for Monsters is currently conceived as a 60-minute immersive piece exploring how the heightened emotions of monster stories can help young people express and process their own emotions. The source material for this project will emerge from creative movement and visual art created by children throughout the Bay Area.

CA$H (artistic project): development fees, artist’s fees

(Cont)
MALCOLM GRISSOM
San Francisco
*Out of the Darkness* will be a short series of solo plays inspired by August Wilson's *Century Cycle*. This is a legacy project meant to give voice to both Wilson’s and Grissom’s legacies and in doing so contribute to the African-American culture.

**CA$H (artistic project): development fees**

SARAH MATSUI
San Francisco
The CA$H grant will support Part III of *Hello, Boar — You Must Be Hungry*, a Taiwanese and Japanese American coming of age story.

**CA$H (artistic project): artists’ fees**

BRYAN PANGILINAN
San Francisco
*Larry*, a musical, tells the story of the Filipino American labor leader Larry Itliong. A comical, heartbreaking, and victorious ride through Philippine indigenous and American music, *Larry* follows the Filipino American labor movement, the Great Delano Grape Strike, and the joining of Filipinos and Mexicans in solidarity during the creation of the United Farm Workers.

**CA$H (artistic project): artists’ fees**

LAUREN SPENCER
San Francisco
*The Cassandra Project* is a multidisciplinary theatrical experience that contends with memory, time, physics, God, vision, and how we define ourselves and those around us in the face of loss.

**CA$H (artistic project): artists’ fees**
Tierra Allen (Oakland) is a theatremaker, teaching artist, curator, facilitator, and activist based in Occupied Huichin/Oakland, CA. She’s co-created spaces braiding performance, activism, healing, and critical consciousness-raising at community-based organizations, theaters, schools, and public parks, behind prison walls and in the streets. She’s won an Isadora Duncan "Izzie" Dance Award, earned award nominations from Theatre Bay Area, and performed with the Black Choreographers Festival, Dance Brigade’s D.I.R.T. (Dance in Revolt(ing) Times) Festival, Campo Santo, BAMBDIFEST, Magic Theatre, Cutting Ball, Shotgun Players, Oakland Theater Project, Bay Area Childrens Theater, Berkeley Playhouse, and others. She’s directed for Playwrights Foundation and PlayGround and choreographed for the National Queer Arts Festival, Spectrum Queer Media, and TheatreFIRST, where she’s a Company Member. Devised works with her collective The Bonfire Makers include PLACE to LAND (an oakland love story), which explored cycles of displacement and pathways toward a just future in Oakland, and a performance-based toolkit to organize for housing justice and Proposition 10. Tierra has facilitated residencies using theater for healing and social justice at Alameda County Juvenile Hall, Allen Temple Arms, Oakland International High School, and more. Her activism has included alternatives to displacement, homelessness, and the housing crisis; defunding police terrorism; and serving as a core organizer with the Transformative Justice Initiative to address sexual and identity-based violence in Bay Area theater. She holds a B.A. in Theater & Dance with concentrations in Black Studies & English from Amherst College.

Kieran Beccia (Oakland) is a Bay Area director and dramaturg focused on devised performance and the development of new works. Their work has been produced at The Forum Collective, Quantum Dragon Theater, FaultLine Theater, Fuse Theater, Dragon Theater, Utopia Theater Project, and more. A TITAN Award winner and two-time CA$H Grant recipient, Kieran is also a company member at the Oakland Theater Project, a former artistic director of the U.C. Santa Cruz poor theatre performance lab, Barnstorm, and a founding member of The Forum Collective. They currently serve as the Associate Literary Manager for the Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Literary Development Director for The Forum Collective, and an Associate Producer for Playwrights Foundation.

Carolyn Doyle (San Francisco) is an actor, writer and solo performer. She has worked locally and in New York. Her solo show, Confessions of a Refrigerator Mother had a sold out run at The Marsh. She is a member of AEA and SAG, appearing on film and TV and can be seen in Steven Soderbergh’s Contagion. She is a proud company member of PlayGround and individual member of Theatre Bay Area.

Kelly Ground (Novato) is an actor, designer, educator and director. As an actor she has performed at TheatreWorks in Iron John, Something Wicked This Way Comes (Dust Witch) & The Trouble with Doug (Lynn). Pre-pandemic appeared as Aunt Betsy in the world premiere of David Copperfield, the Musical at Jewel Theatre. National Tour: Les Misérables (Fantine), An Inspector Calls, Menopause, The Musical (Iowa Housewife). Regional Credits at: San Diego Rep, San Jose Rep, Woodminster, Lawrence Welk V.T,
Shirley Smallwood (Pinole) co-founded (along with Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe and the late great Lester Jones) Black Artists Contemporary Cultural Experience (BACCE) which was born out the Sugar Shack Performance Gallery & Cultural Center, a groundbreaking artist run Black Art space in San Francisco’s Lower Haight. She recently won a collective award from the 9th Annual Independent Series Award for best comedy ensemble for the *The Rich and the Ruthless*, directed by Victoria Rowell (*Diagnosis Murder, The Young and the Restless*), currently on the UMC.tv website. Locally, Smallwood has appeared at The Exit, New Conservatory Theater, Pacifica Repertory Theater, Marin Shakespeare Theater and has understudied Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Smallwood returned to college at the age of 42 and received her B.A. in Music from Holy Names College.