



New England  
Foundation  
for the Arts

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**NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCES  
EXPEDITIONS PROGRAM GRANTEES FOR 2008**

(Boston, MA) - New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) awarded \$326,415 in grants supporting 16 artists through the Expeditions program for 2008.

NEFA's Expeditions program funds cross-disciplinary touring projects in New England, stimulating richer collaborative opportunities in arts touring and presentation. Grants are made to New England-based non-profit organizations to support the planning or touring of projects with performing, literary, and/or visual arts components.

The Expeditions program strives to support New England as a laboratory for the development of high quality arts projects for region-wide touring. It broadens the range of arts projects and activities available to New England communities while encouraging thorough planning and delivery of innovative cross-discipline, cross-sector, and/or cross-cultural projects that provide meaningful community-artist-presenter interaction. The Expeditions program offers two types of support: **Planning Grants** and **Touring Grants**, and operates on an annual funding cycle.

Expeditions Planning Grants provide funding for the development of arts projects that will fulfill Expeditions project criteria, but need planning and research time before being realized.

The deadline for 2009 Expeditions applications will be in February, 2009; the date will be announced at [www.nefa.org/grantprog/expeditions/index.html](http://www.nefa.org/grantprog/expeditions/index.html).

**2008 Planning Grants:**

**Double Edge Theatre Productions, Inc (Ashfield, MA) \$4,500**

Artist: Double Edge Theatre

Double Edge Theatre will visit a variety of theatre venues, performing arts centers, and universities throughout New England to discuss two new works by Double Edge Theatre. They hope to engage potential presenters in areas outside of the normal theatre community and continue to nourish the creative collaboration between arts organizations. In addition to public performances, tour partners will be encouraged to plan residency activities for their local communities.

**Middlebury College, Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts (Middlebury, VT)  
\$4,500**

Artist: Philip Hamilton (Brooklyn, NY)

Philip Hamilton, a Middlebury College alumnus and vocalist, is currently composing an original a cappella multi-media theater and performance piece entitled *Voices*. Middlebury

College will use their Planning Grant to lead the shaping of a *Voices* tour to the New England region in 2009/2010. By presenting *Voices*, potential partners hope to explore, broaden, and expose their communities to a diverse musical mix of Tuvan throat singing, Gregorian chants, doo-wop, barbershop quartets, and hip-hop beats. Local choirs and music students will be encouraged to participate in the tour.

**River Arts (Morrisville, VT) \$3,000**

Artist: Polly Motley (Stowe, VT)

*Site Poems* is a series of performances inspired by and designed for non-traditional spaces by internationally known choreographer Polly Motley. River Arts will aid in the tour development of Motley's work to area museums, gallery spaces, fire halls, and other unique public spaces. By using non-theater venues, tour partners anticipate reaching new audiences and inviting community participation including dancing during the performances and customized residencies at each location.

**2008 Touring Grants:**

**Anne Galjour**

*Touring grant total: \$12,590*

Anne Galjour is a nationally recognized playwright and actress who began her association with northern New England over two years ago. Supported by an Expeditions Planning Grant in 2007, Ms. Galjour travelled to the communities of the three tour partners interviewing residents for a new work. Through her research and discussions, Galjour created a new solo play, *Class Divide New England*, based on the local citizen's economic class differences and challenges regionally and historically. In addition to performances of the work, Galjour's tour will include question and answer sessions about her project and discoveries regarding class divisions through student matinees, theatre workshops, and post-performance receptions.

**Tour Schedule:**

November 7 -8, 2008: Dartmouth College, Hopkins Center (Hanover, NH)

November 14-15, 2008: Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (Burlington, VT)

November 17, 2008: Brattleboro Arts Initiative (Brattleboro, VT)

**Chunky Move**

*Touring grant total: \$16,300*

Chunky Move, a premier dance company of Australia, will bring a new level of contemporary and international dance exposure to three presenters in the states of Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. Performing *I Want to Dance Better at Parties*, Chunky Move invites audiences into the lives of five men and explores how dance is incorporated into their social existence; from their early awkward movements as the men learn to dance to the final thrilling and dynamic expression. In addition, the International Festival will present a technology-based dance number entitled *Glow*. The New England tour will encourage and engage the public through a variety of master dance classes, pre- and post-concert discussions, and a special "meet the choreographer" workshop.

**Tour Schedule:**

June 18-20, 21-22, 2009: New Haven International Festival of Arts & Ideas (New Haven, CT)

March 24, 2009: Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (Burlington, VT)

March 27-29, 2009: World Music/CRASHarts (Cambridge, MA)

**Devil Music Ensemble**

*Touring grant total: \$4,205*

The Devil Music Ensemble (DME) is a multi-media performing arts group whose primary artistic focus is exploring the combination/collaboration of music and visual art. By

performing live accompaniment to silent film classics, DME has reignited interest in the significant history and creation of cinema. Their New England tour will feature the martial arts classic, *Red Heroine*, accompanied by a fusion of Chinese classical and folk music with modern instruments and technology. Screenings will be enhanced with workshops about Asian artistic topics and discussions on DME's performance process, as well as question and answer sessions and school programs.

**Tour Schedule:**

August TBD 2008: Asian Community Development Corporation (Boston, MA)  
October 18, 2008: Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire (Littleton, NH)  
October 24, 2008: Merrimack College (North Andover, MA)  
November 9, 2008: Center Theatre (Dover-Foxcroft, ME)

**Hot 8 Brass Band**

*Touring grant total: \$24,400*

Hot 8 Brass Band will bring New Orleans' style second-line parade street music to six New England venues. Before the ensemble's arrival, each presenter will provide a screening of Spike Lee's *When the Levees Broke*, which details the events prior to and following Hurricane Katrina's destruction of the city. Members of the Hot 8 are featured and interviewed in the film as to their involvement in social relief, including performing music throughout the state at evacuated shelters. Accompanying the performances will be discussions on issues New Orleans faces today, outreach to local shelters, school performances, Louisiana-style dinners, jazz master classes, Grand Marshall-led dance workshops, and community parades.

**Tour Schedule:**

July 26, 2008: Opera House Arts (Stonington, ME)  
February 8, 2009: Ridgefield Playhouse (Ridgefield, CT)  
February 6, 2009: University of Massachusetts, Fine Arts Center (Amherst, MA)  
February 9, 2009: Castleton State College, Fine Arts Center (Castleton, VT)  
February 11, 2009: Keene State College, Redfern Arts Center on Brickyard Pond (Keene, NH)  
February 12, 2009: Merrimack College (North Andover, MA)

**Mariza**

*Touring grant total: \$29,600*

Portuguese musician, Mariza, will bring the unique art form of *fado* to five different communities on her New England tour. Mariza will present a blend of traditional and contemporary songs, allowing the audience to experience the purity of the *fado* sound as well as its evolution. A variety of activities to reach the local Portuguese community will accompany Mariza's performances, including slideshows and screenings of Portugal, dinners of Portuguese cuisine, and workshops on the *fado* art form.

**Tour Schedule:**

February 19, 2009: University of Massachusetts, Fine Arts Center; Amherst, MA  
February 20, 2009: Fairfield University, Quick Center for the Arts; Fairfield, CT  
February 21, 2009: University of Connecticut; Storrs, CT  
March 4, 2009: Flynn Center for the Performing Arts; Burlington, VT  
March 13-14, 2009: Zeiterion Theatre; New Bedford, MA

**Noche Flamenca**

*Touring grant total: \$32,000*

Noche Flamenca is well-regarded as one of the top authentic flamenco dance troupes touring America. Based in Madrid, Spain, Noche Flamenca's New England tour will bring the passionate and powerful mix of footwork, vocal songs (cantos), and intricate guitarwork to the region. With lineage to Sephardic Jewish peoples, gypsies, and Moorish-

Arabs, Flamenco provides a unique historical and geographical timeline. Post-performance talk-backs with the company's Artistic Director, dance, vocal, and guitar master classes and student matinees will further impact relationships with the community.

**Tour Schedule:**

November 7, 2008: Fairfield University, Quick Center for the Arts (Fairfield, CT)

November 8, 2008: Fitchburg State College (Fitchburg, MA)

January 9-10, 2009: Dartmouth College, Hopkins Center (Hanover, NH)

February 14, 2009: Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (Burlington, VT)

**Jazz-Tap Odyssey**

*Touring grant total: \$42,350*

*Off the Beaten Path: A Jazz and Tap Odyssey* weaves a journey inspired by the nature writings of Rachel Carson, pioneer of the modern environmental movement, into a celebration of her legacy through music and dance from around the world. Conceived by the New England Presenters consortium, the tour will feature work by local tap dancer/choreographer Drika Overton and noted jazz composer Paul Arslanian. Along with the full-length production, numerous customized outreach components will be available, such as school shows, question and answer sessions, and workshops for all ages in dance and music.

**Tour Schedule:**

September 4-6, 2008: Wesleyan University, Center for the Arts (Middletown, CT)

October 18, 2008: Hyde Cultural Center (Woodstock, CT)

October 20-23, 2008: Keene State College, Redfern Arts Center on Brickyard Pond (Keene, NH)

November 12, 2008: Pentangle Council on the Arts (Woodstock, VT)

November 14, 2008: The Music Hall (Portsmouth, NH)

November 20-21, 2008: Castleton State College (Castleton, VT)

February 20-21, 2009: Rhode Island College (Providence, RI)

February 26-27, 2009: Fitchburg State College (Fitchburg, MA)

**Paul Taylor Dance Co.**

*Touring grant total: \$20,500*

Since his landmark premiere at Connecticut College in 1962, Paul Taylor has powerfully impacted the American dance landscape with his virtuoso choreography. Considered an American Masterpiece for bringing modern dance to the forefront of performing arts, Taylor will return to the New England region for three-day residencies at each of the tour locations. Master classes for dance students and workshops for non-dancers will be part of Taylor's visits. In addition to the performances, other activities will include pre- and post-show discussions with Paul Taylor Dance Company members and college dance departments, program notes and visits by Suzanne Carbonneau, author of a new Taylor biography, motion capture work, and open rehearsals with physical therapists.

**Tour Schedule:**

November 13, 2009: University of Massachusetts, Fine Arts Center (Amherst, MA)

April 3, 2009: Connecticut College (New London, CT)

April 7-9, 2009: Dartmouth College, Hopkins Center (Hanover, NH)

**Sam Bush**

*Touring grant total: \$20,000*

Bluegrass originated in the American Roots musical evolution as a hybrid of old-time string music, blended with European and African origins, gospel, blues, and mandolin-driven hoedown harmony. In today's Bluegrass movement, Sam Bush is considered a revivalist and pioneer of a "newgrass" style. He has popularized the sound by incorporating electric instruments and drums, and pushing the boundaries such as fusing jazz, while staying

dedicated to the structure and detail of bluegrass technique. Known as an accessible and lively performer, and applauded as an educator, Mr. Bush will tour four New England sites, performing as well as leading lecture-demonstrations, open jam sessions, and mandolin workshops.

**Tour Schedule:**

March 28, 2009: Plymouth State University, Silver Center for the Arts (Plymouth, NH)

March 29, 2009: Fitchburg State College (Fitchburg, MA)

April 17, 2009: Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (Burlington, VT)

April 18, 2009: The Colonial Theatre (Keene, NH)

**Sweet Honey in the Rock**

*Touring grant total: \$39,200*

Described as a "national treasure," Sweet Honey in the Rock will showcase their all-female vocal a cappella blend of blues, spirituals, gospel, African chants, hip-hop, and jazz on two separate tours of New England. The tour partners recognized the benefits of Sweet Honey's dedication to musically inspiring and uplifting audiences while consciously promoting community building, social activism, spirituality, and positive change. To ensure their performances will be universal, each concert will be fully signed for the hearing impaired. Additional adjunct activities include open rehearsals, choral clinics, lectures to coincide with Martin Luther King Day observances, post-show discussions, and screenings of Sweet Honey's PBS documentary.

**Tour Schedule:**

November 1, 2008: University of Massachusetts, Fine Arts Center (Amherst, MA)

November 2, 2008: Celebrity Series of Boston, Inc. (Boston, MA)

January 18, 2009: PCA Great Performances (Portland, ME)

January 23, 2009: Dartmouth College, Hopkins Center (Hanover, NH)

January 24, 2009: Colonial Theater (Keene, NH)

**Toumani Diabaté**

*Touring grant total: \$36,420*

Toumani Diabaté is a versatile Malian kora player who is equally at home with the traditional music of Mali as well as with cross-cultural collaborations with flamenco, blues, jazz, and other international styles. Diabaté plays a vital role composing on the kora, as well as exposing communities to this unique 21-string harp and its rich heritage. The tour partners have organized community outreach based on Diabaté's roots and his lively and joyful nature on stage. Lecture-demonstrations by scholars on ethnomusicology and Malian griots, drum circles, jam sessions, and student workshops, as well as talks and demonstrations by Diabaté, are among the activities.

**Tour Schedule:**

November 8, 2008: World Music/CRASHarts (Cambridge, MA)

April 23, 2009: University of Massachusetts, Fine Arts Center (Amherst, MA)

April 25, 2009: Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (Burlington, VT)

April 28, 2009: Dartmouth College, Hopkins Center (Hanover, NH)

May 1, 2009: PCA Great Performances (Portland, ME)

May 2, 2009: Wesleyan University, Center for the Arts (Middletown, CT)

**Universes**

*Touring grant total: \$21,000*

Universes is a diverse quartet of writers, musicians, and performers who fuse poetry, theater, jazz, hip-hop, politics, blues, gospel, and Spanish boleros to create new theatrical works. Their latest, *Ameriville*, is a bilingual, multimedia exploration of what it means to be an American in post 9/11. *Ameriville* presents contemporary issues of terror-level color codes, media overexposure, and internet misinformation in the context of Orson Welles'

famed panic-causing broadcast, *War of the Worlds*. The intense and timely subject matter will be examined and discussed in numerous residencies, workshops, master classes, and lectures.

**Tour Schedule:**

October 9, 2008: FirstWorks (Providence, RI)

December 12-13, 2008: Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (Burlington, VT)

April 17-18, 2009: New World Theater (Amherst, MA)

**White Box Theatre**

*Touring grant total: \$15,850*

Sebastienne Mundheim and the White Box Theatre will present Manheim's new multimedia work, *Sea of Birds*, based on Eastern European displacement and migration to America and the subsequent impact on following generations. Background for the piece features a sea of birds and a 'sea' of birch trees. To connect this imagery to local surroundings, Sebastienne will lead community members in the creation of a site-specific installation – a "dome" of birch trees. Talk-backs, residencies at local schools, and professional development workshops will enhance the performance.

**Tour Schedule:**

March 6-7, 2009: Marlboro College (Marlboro, VT)

March 12, 2009: Keene State College, Redfern Arts Center on Brickyard Pond (Keene, NH)

April 11, 2009: MASS MoCA (North Adams, MA)

May 22-23, 2009: Opera House Arts (Stonington, ME)

The Expeditions program is made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program and the American Masterpieces initiative, with additional support from the six New England state arts agencies.

*NEFA creatively supports the movement of people, ideas, and resources in the arts within New England and beyond, makes vital connections between artists and audiences, and builds the strength, knowledge, and leadership of the region's creative sector. NEFA is a 501 (c) 3 that operates with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New England state arts agencies, and from corporations, foundations and individuals.*

*NEFA administers ten grant-making programs that support the performing arts, public art, and Native arts as well as other projects and initiatives ranging from the research and analysis of the impact of the creative economy to the creation and administration of resources and online tools, which link and advance the regional, national, and international cultural community. For more information, please visit [www.nefa.org](http://www.nefa.org) or call [617] 951-0010.*