



Diablo Regional Arts Association

performing great works



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**DRAA Awards More Than \$250,000 in Artistic Excellence Grants to Support Arts Organizations at the Leshler Center for the Arts**

**WALNUT CREEK, CA. July 10, 2007** — The Diablo Regional Arts Association (DRAA) has awarded \$251,000 in grants to support professional arts organizations at the Leshler Center for the Arts. These grants have been awarded to major producers and exhibitors that have identified specific projects to enrich the quality of artistic programming within the Leshler Center and to create avenues for everyone to enjoy the arts.

“DRAA’s commitment to artistic excellence was fully reflected in the grants provided this year,” said Gil Berkeley DRAA Board President. “A huge amount of time and energy was devoted to determining where funding would be most effective, and we’re pleased to offer such deserving organizations with the means to enhance the quality of their productions and exhibitions.”

“Because of the generous support of our individual donors, business supporters, sponsors, and the Leshler Foundation we are able to make the Leshler Center for the Arts the premiere destination for a high-quality, professional arts experience,” said Peggy White, DRAA, Executive Director. “In addition, our Boards of Directors and Trustees have never been stronger. DRAA is poised to deliver another season of success.”

**The 2007 DRAA grant recipients include:**

- \$50,000 to support Center REPeritory Company’s Artistic Enhancements for the 2007-08 Season including hiring equity actors, directors and musicians for all productions including *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, as well as elaborate sets and props for *The Mousetrap* and *Nixon’s Nixon*, an extended rehearsal schedule for *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and a national talent search for *The Musical of Musicals: The Musical*
- \$50,000 to support elaborate special flying effects in DLOC’s production of *Peter Pan* including flying an actor over the Hofmann Theatre audience for the first time
- \$32,000 to support Contra Costa Musical Theatre in hiring an equity actor for *Fiddler on the Roof*, as well as new sound equipment and special effects for *Cinderella*

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- \$34,000 to support Festival Opera's production of *Our Town*, including bringing in guest actors and a guest stage director
- \$30,000 to support the Bedford Gallery in community outreach and marketing, including sponsoring exhibit opening receptions, Art Mornings for seniors and elder care facilities, Family Day for the *Carny Art* exhibit, School Tours and Bg Cocktails + Culture, a new evening event that welcomes the younger generation for after-work art, cocktails and conversation
- \$30,000 to support Smuin Ballet's expansion of its season at the LCA, adding Sunday matinees to *The Christmas Ballet* and *Enchanted Child* as well as launching a new education program with Friday previews for schools
- \$25,000 to support California Symphony's performance of the *Reach the Outer Limits* concert, which will feature a multi-media experience for the first time in the Symphony's 20 years

In addition to its *Artistic Excellence* Grant Program, DRAA's other key programs that enrich programming at the Leshler Center include: the *New Producer* grant program which focuses on bringing new professional productions to the Center: and *Arts Access*, which provides opportunities to attend performances at the Center for school-aged youth, families, educators and senior citizens, many of whom may not have the means to do so.

Diablo Regional Arts Association (DRAA) is an independent non-profit organization that is dedicated to the mission of enriching the quality of artistic programming within the Leshler Center for the Arts and to creating avenues for everyone to enjoy the arts

For additional information about DRAA and supporting the arts visit us online at [www.draa.org](http://www.draa.org) or call 925-932-1731.

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