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## The Hypocrites Receives Prestigious MacArthur Award for Extraordinary Creativity and Effectiveness

**CHICAGO** (February 18, 2016) – **The Hypocrites** today was awarded the prestigious [MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions](#). The Award recognizes exceptional nonprofit organizations who have demonstrated creativity and impact, and invests in their long-term sustainability with sizable one-time grants.

**The Hypocrites** will use the **\$200,000** that accompanies the Award to build a working capital reserve for the company and as seed capital for a variety of diversity initiatives.

The Hypocrites' **Executive Director Kelli Strickland** comments, "This Award comes at a pivotal time of growth for our company. The Hypocrites have long been making a significant contribution to the landscape of Chicago theatre. The Board and leadership are taking steps to build on this history and secure the company's future. The capital reserve will provide the necessary stability to move the company forward from an organizational perspective and continue its tradition of creating immersive theater experiences around historic and original work."

The Hypocrites is a leading storefront theater company that blends emotionally resonant theater and humor in its interpretations of historic plays and productions of new work. Performing for an audience of 18,000 in Chicago each year, the company is gaining recognition nationally as productions are increasingly exported outside of Chicago, including at venues in New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Louisville and the Bay Area.

The Hypocrites original work *All Our Tragic* is an example of how a small theater company pushes itself and the art form. The show is a mashup of all 32 surviving Greek tragedies compiled into a single, 12 hour show. It featured the Hypocrites signature blend of serious, traditional theater and comedic sensibilities – constantly experimenting with the role of the audience, turning the traditional model of observing a show upside down.

**The MacArthur Award** has been presented annually since 2006 to organizations across the country and around the world that demonstrate exceptional creativity and effectiveness. This year's 14 recipients are drawn exclusively from Chicago's diverse arts and culture community in order to strengthen the city's vibrant cultural life and underscore the Foundation's commitment to its hometown. Each year, MacArthur supports more than 300 arts and culture group in Chicago, awarding more than \$10 million in grants, mostly through general operating support.

"These superbly imaginative organizations exemplify Chicago's thriving arts and culture community, which is vibrant and economically vital to the region," said **MacArthur President Julia Stasch**. "Support for these diverse and leading organizations reflects our enduring commitment to Chicago and to its cultural life that enriches us all."

According to MacArthur, the Award is not only recognition for past leadership and success but also an investment in the future. For these Awards, the Foundation does not seek or accept nominations. To qualify, organizations must demonstrate exceptional creativity and effectiveness; have reached a critical or strategic point in their development; show strong leadership and stable financial management; have previously received MacArthur support; and engage in work central to one of MacArthur's core programs.

Additional information about this year's MacArthur Awards is at [www.macfound.org/MacAward](http://www.macfound.org/MacAward).

**About The Hypocrites**

Artistic Director **Sean Graney** created The Hypocrites in 1997. The company is currently run by Graney and Executive Director **Kelli Strickland**. One of Chicago's premier off-Loop theater companies, The Hypocrites specializes in mounting bold productions that challenge preconceptions and redefining the role of the audience. The company has a reputation in Chicago for creating exciting, surprising and deeply engaging theater as it re-interprets classics and tackles ambitious new works.

Their recent production of Graney's *All Our Tragic*, a twelve-hour adaptation combining all 32 surviving Greek Tragedies, garnered the company six 2015 Equity Jeff Awards in its first year of eligibility. Graney's musical adaptations of Gilbert & Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado* and *H.M.S. Pinafore* have become audience and critic favorites, being remounted numerous times in Chicago as well as going on tour to American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.), Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville and Olney Theater Center. The company has grown significantly in the past few years, receiving acclaim for productions at the Steppenwolf Garage, Goodman Theatre, Museum of Contemporary Art, DCASE Storefront, Chopin Theater and nationally at American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.), Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Actors Theatre of Louisville.

The American Theatre Wing, best known as the creator of the Tony Awards, presented The Hypocrites with one of the 2013 National Theatre Company awards. The company's smash-hit production of *Our Town*, directed by David Cromer, transferred in 2009 to Off-Broadway, Los Angeles and Boston. Since the company's founding, The Hypocrites have produced over sixty mainstage productions and a dozen festival pieces, securing thirty-one Non-Equity Joseph Jefferson awards, six Equity Joseph Jefferson awards and two After Dark Awards.

The Hypocrites' 19<sup>th</sup> season is supported by The Alphawood Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, The MacArthur Funds for Arts and Culture at The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, Brenda and James Grusecki Family Foundation, Dr. Scholl Foundation, The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, The Jordan and Jean Nerenberg Fund for the Future, The Ann Barzel and Patrick Henry Arts Fund, 3Arts, The Negaunee Foundation, Nixon Peabody, The Reva and David Logan Foundation.

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For more information, please visit [www.the-hypocrites.com](http://www.the-hypocrites.com).

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