

TWO RIVER THEATER

20 TH ANNIVERSARY

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TWO RIVER THEATER HONORED WITH A GENEROUS GRANT FROM THE DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT A RESIDENCY IN RED BANK FOR PLAYWRIGHT TANYA SARACHO AND DIRECTOR JERRY RUIZ

Two River Theater invites Red Bank's Latino community to participate in the first of a year-long series of storytelling workshops on Saturday, April 26, 2014. No experience is necessary to join. The workshops are open to all people who identify as Latino or Latina, regardless of national or ethnic background, and young people, women, and transgender people are especially encouraged to participate. For more information, call 732.936.8843.

RED BANK, NJ— Two River Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, is proud to announce that the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation has awarded the theater a generous \$40,000 grant through the foundation's Building Demand for the Arts program, which launched last year and funds inventive partnerships that create new methods for reaching the public and developing their interest in and access to the performing arts.

Two River Theater will host a residency for **Tanya Saracho** (an award-winning playwright and writer on TV's *Girls*, *Looking*, and *Devious Maids*) and director **Jerry Ruiz** (curator of Two River's annual Crossing Borders festival of new Latino plays and free community programs) to build demand for theater among Latino audiences. Through the Duke residency, Saracho and Ruiz will create and lead storytelling workshops (utilizing both writing and multimedia) for Red Bank's Latino community, bringing them into direct contact with the process of creating theater and allowing them to experience the art form as something that is vital and relevant to them. As a result of this project, Two River will commission Saracho to write a play that speaks directly to experiences and challenges that are specific to this community, which will be developed at the theater and directed by Ruiz.

Two River Theater invites Red Bank's Latino community to participate in the first community workshop on Saturday, April 26, 2014. No experience is necessary to join. The workshops are open to all people who identify as Latino or Latina, regardless of national or ethnic background, and young people, women, and transgender people are especially encouraged to

participate. Workshops will include opportunities for the participants to talk, share stories, and play games, using storytelling models devised by Saracho. In addition to the workshops, participants will be invited to events, shows, and programs at Two River throughout the year, all free and at no cost. For information, interested community members should call 732.936.8843.

“We are curious and eager to learn more about the Latino community in Red Bank,” say Saracho and Ruiz. “What are their experiences like in the US and in this particular community? Did they immigrate to Red Bank directly, or did they live somewhere else before coming to this place? How long have they been here, what brought them here, and what did they leave behind? We want to learn about their specific struggles and challenges, particularly as pertaining to the experiences of women and young people within a culture that often promotes more traditional gender and familial roles. Additionally, we see ourselves as ambassadors for both Two River Theater and the Latino community, and we want to partner with Two River to better serve this new audience that we hope it will develop through the grant, and continue to engage them in seeing work at Two River that isn’t strictly about the Latino experience. The final result would be building a new audience for the theater, an audience that can and will engage deeply whether they are seeing a play by Tanya Saracho or August Wilson or William Shakespeare.”

“Two River Theater is deeply grateful to the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation for their generous support of this important initiative,” say Two River Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst. “Tanya and Jerry are great artists who have dedicated much of their careers to working on a grassroots level with too-often voiceless populations and then creating work inspired by their experiences. Here at Two River, we share that same commitment to engaging directly with people in our community. We want everyone in Red Bank to know that the doors of our theater are always open. One of the phrases we use a lot here is we want everyone to feel ‘invited to the party.’ But we also know that making the theater accessible means going out into the community before we can ask people to come here. “

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is to improve the quality of people’s lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and child well-being, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke’s properties. The Arts Program focuses its support on contemporary dance, jazz and theatre artists, and the organizations that nurture, present and produce them. For more information, visit www.ddcf.org.

Sponsors and Supporters

Two River Theater’s 20th Anniversary Season is supported in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a division within the Department of State and a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Columbus Foundation, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Stone Foundation of New Jersey, Monmouth University, The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, Durso Wealth Management Group at Morgan Stanley, Wells Fargo, Investors Bank, Brookdale Community College, The Horizon

Foundation for New Jersey, William T. Morris Foundation, Springpoint Senior Living Foundation at the Atrium at Navesink Harbor, the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, and many other generous foundations, corporations and individuals.

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Two River Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director John Dias and Managing Director Michael Hurst, is celebrating its 20th Anniversary of creating great American theater performed by award-winning artists. We produce an eight-play season on two stages, including American and world masterpieces, and new plays and musicals. Two River Theater offers new-play commissions and artistic development activities that support the most adventurous artists in the American theater; invites its audience to be part of the creative process through readings and open rehearsals; and cultivates students and young people to participate in innovative arts-education programs and become a new generation of theatergoers. Founded in 1994 by Joan and Dr. Robert M. Rechnitz, Two River Theater is easily accessible from New York by car, train, or bus, with great restaurants and shopping within walking distance of the theater. For more information, visit tworivertheater.org or call 732.345.1400.