



MEDIA RELEASE

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Southern Arts Federation Awards \$19,660 to Mississippi Arts Organizations

Atlanta, GA - The Southern Arts Federation (SAF) announces a total of \$19,660 awarded to Mississippi arts organizations for fiscal year 2008-09 in fee support to present touring artists. Through the NEA/SAF Regional Touring program, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Southern Arts Federation partner to offer nonprofit presenting organizations fee support to present artists from outside of their states. Touring support is awarded for theatre, music, opera, musical theatre, literary and dance projects that contain both a public performance and an educational component. Mississippi grant recipients, location, amount and program funded are:

- **Alcorn State University**, Alcorn State, \$2,500 for Cassandra Wilson
- **Columbus Arts Council, Inc.**, Columbus, \$2,500 for St. Petersburg Classic Ballet Theatre
- **Delta Children's Museum**, Greenville, \$680 for Bits 'N Pieces Puppet Theatre
- **Harrisburg Cultural and Social Services Center**, Tupelo, \$3,400 for Glenis Redmond
- **Sunflower River Blues Association**, Clarksdale, \$680 for Nellie "Tiger" Travis
- **The Celtic Heritage Society**, Jackson, \$500 for Jimmy Crowley
- **The Celtic Heritage Society**, Jackson, \$700 for The Fuchsia Band
- **Tupelo Ballet**, Tupelo, \$1,200 for Oleg Gorboulev & Mara Vinson
- **The University of Southern Mississippi**, Hattiesburg, \$7,500 for Misnomer Dance Theater

Presenting organizations from SAF's nine-state region competed for a total of \$371,981 in Regional Touring funding. Grants were awarded to 125 projects which are expected to reach 300,000 individuals, including more than 105,000 K-12 students. A total of 709 performances and educational activities will be provided throughout the region.

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About the Southern Arts Federation: *The Southern Arts Federation, a non-profit regional arts organization founded in 1975, creates partnerships and collaborations; presents, promotes and produces Southern arts and cultural programming; and advocates for the arts and arts education. Working in partnership with nine state arts agencies—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee—SAF builds on the South's unique heritage, and enhances the public value of the arts in our communities by promoting and supporting the arts in the South, enhancing the artistic excellence and professionalism of Southern arts organizations and artists, and serving the diverse population of the South.*