



Media Contact: Kevin Lohmann
klohmann@sdrep.org | 619.231.3586 x 613
For Immediate Release

San Diego Repertory Theatre to Receive \$20,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

SAN DIEGO, CA – January 28, 2020 – The leadership of **San Diego Repertory Theatre** (San Diego REP) announced today that the theatre has been approved for a **\$20,000 Art Works grant** to support their production of *House of Joy*. Overall, the National Endowment for the Arts has approved 1,187 grants totaling \$27.3 million in the first round of fiscal year 2020 funding to support arts projects in every state in the nation, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

The Art Works funding category supports projects that focus on public engagement with, and access to, various forms of excellent art across the nation; the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence; learning in the arts at all stages of life; and the integration of the arts into the fabric of community life.

“The arts are at the heart of our communities, connecting people through shared experiences and artistic expression,” said **Arts Endowment chairman Mary Anne Carter**. “The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support projects like San Diego REP’s production of *House of Joy*.”

“A grant from the NEA is a seal of approval by the national funder for the arts. Many theaters do not receive grants. To do so is a distinguished honor,” says REP Artistic Director Sam Woodhouse. “We are grateful that the NEA is now funding us for the 30th year in a row.”

Set in the 17th century, in a place like Delhi, India, *House of Joy* spins the tale of Hamida, one of the elite female bodyguards in the Emperor's Imperial Harem. When faced with an impossible ethical quandary, Hamida goes against everything she believes and risks her life to help abused Queen Mariyam escape the heavily guarded harem. Inspired by the epic legends of Indian history, playwright Madhuri Shekar has crafted a swashbuckling action-adventure romance centering on strong women who battle each other as well as a world threatening to enter their sacred space. This wildly entertaining story of palace intrigue and betrayal features sword fights, narrow escapes and sparks of revolution that culminates in a breathtaking conclusion!

For more information on projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

About the National Endowment for the Arts

Established by Congress in 1965, the NEA is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates

America's rich and diverse cultural heritage and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit arts.gov to learn more about NEA.

About San Diego Repertory Theatre

San Diego Repertory Theatre (San Diego REP) produces intimate, provocative and inclusive theatre. Founded in 1976, San Diego Repertory Theatre is downtown San Diego's resident theatre, promoting an interconnected community through vivid works that nourish progressive political and social values and celebrates the multiple voices of our region. The company produces and hosts over 550 events and performances year-round on its three stages at the Lyceum Theatre. Since moving to the Lyceum, The REP has produced 45 main stage productions by Latino playwrights, and more than 40 world premieres. In addition to a 1998 Tony Award® Nomination for *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues*, the company has received more than 200 awards for artistic excellence from the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle, Patté Theatre Awards, NAACP, Backstage West, Dramalogue and StageSceneLA. In 2005, the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle presented The REP with the Craig Noel Award "For 30 Years of Artistic Dedication to Downtown and Diversity." San Diego Repertory Theatre feeds the curious soul. To learn more about San Diego Repertory Theatre, to purchase tickets, or make a donation, visit www.sdrep.org. Join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@SanDiegoREP).

XXX