

## THE ARTS CLUB ANNOUNCES THE INAUGURAL RECIPIENTS OF THE BILL MILLERD ARTIST FUND

**VANCOUVER, B.C. (April 12, 2019)**—The **Bill Millerd Artist Fund** was named for and established by the Arts Club’s Artistic Director Emeritus. In the early 1960s, the Koerner Foundation awarded Bill a grant that assisted him in attending the National Theatre School. After 46 years as Artistic Managing Director at the Arts Club, Bill wanted to gift similar life-changing opportunities to other theatre artists.

The purpose of the Bill Millerd Artist Fund is to assist B.C. theatre artists with expenses related to unique opportunities that will advance their artistic development, such as professional development workshops or classes, mentorships or apprenticeships, residencies with a theatre company, or tuition costs to pursue professional training.

Applications were reviewed by a committee consisting of **Ashlie Corcoran, Kathy Hamilton, Bill Millerd,** and **Donna Yamamoto**. 16 of 70 applications received a total of \$35,000 in the Fund’s inaugural year. The recipients are:

NAME	PROJECT
mia amir	year-long, co-mentorship in Mad & Disability theatre
Elaine Avila	artistic residency at the Aveiro Arts House in Portugal
Mariam Barry	participating in b current performing arts’ Emerging Artist Ensemble
Gavan Cheema	mentorship with Why Not Theatre’s production of <i>The Mahabharata</i>
Dave Deveau and Anton Lipovetsky	playwrights’ residency at Nashville Children’s Theatre
Lisa Goebel	training at the Intimacy Choreographer’s Intensive (Toronto)
Tai Grauman	Artistic Direction apprenticeship at Citadel Theatre
Shizuka Kai	attending the Banff Puppet Theatre Intensive
Angus Kellett	private jazz keyboard study with Michael Creber
Milton Lim	media design mentorship with Monty Martin
Jessica Nelson	assistant director position on Arts Club/Vertigo’s production of <i>Cipher</i>
Matthew Payne	supporting a Cultural Perspectives Retreat at the Banff Centre
Jess Amy Shead	attending the Banff Puppet Theatre Intensive
Agnes Tong	improvisation training with Blind Tiger Comedy
Astrid Varnes	directing mentorship with James Fagan Tait at Shuswap Theatre, Salmon Arm
Kaitlin Williams	attending Directors’ Lab North (Toronto)

Millerd said, “I applaud the seventeen recipients and thank all who applied for the Fund. I appreciate the incredible work of the committee members as well as the many donors that supported the creation of the Fund to assist theatre artists in their professional development. In particular, I would like to thank the Y.P. Heung Foundation for contributing \$22,000 in this inaugural year.”

## **ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB**

The Arts Club, one of the largest not-for-profit theatre companies in the country, is the principal gathering place for the theatrical arts in British Columbia. Comprising three unique venues across Vancouver, the Arts Club welcomes more than a quarter million guests annually, tours provincially and nationally, and engages students and artists alike through educational and professional programs.

Above all, the Arts Club is dedicated to the advancement of local artists telling stories from around the globe and, in particular, those of our region. From this, we believe that culture expands, an understanding of differences is nurtured, and art bursts forth. The Arts Club was founded in 1964 and is currently led by Artistic Director Ashlie Corcoran and Executive Director Peter Cathie White.