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News Release

One Reel Receives Prestigious Wallace Excellence Award for Teatro ZinZanni's ZinZanni Institute for Circus Arts

Four-Year Grant Seeds ZICA Education Program for Seattle Area Young People and Their Families

Seattle – M. Christine DeVita, President of The Wallace Foundation, announced today that One Reel's ten-year old cirque cabaret Teatro ZinZanni is among the Seattle's top nine recipients of a four-year grant from the Wallace Foundation. The Wallace Excellence Awards are a primary way that Wallace works with exemplary arts organizations in selected cities to develop and test effective ways to build audiences and enhance participation in the arts. To achieve broad impact, Wallace also commissions relevant research and shares useful practices and lessons among grantees and with the broader field.

With the generous support of The Wallace Foundation, One Reel is proud to push into new artistic territory aimed at bringing young adults into meaningful, enriching contact with the brilliant world of theater, music, and circus arts of Teatro ZinZanni. One Reel

will be offering a full series of workshops for youth and young adults, designed to build skills and self-confidence through one-on-one interaction with members of the amazing, rotating international artistic cast of Teatro ZinZanni. Over time, the program will evolve and extend into master classes for college age audiences, internships and apprenticeships, all created to bring the rich, international, theatrical world of ZinZanni to a currently underserved audience of young adults. The program will include comedic performance, theater craft, costume arts, circus arts, character development, storytelling and other aspects of live performance, all designed to reach young people ages 9 - 25.

Last summer One Reel developed a simple pilot program aimed at testing the strength of the idea for a permanent ZinZanni Institute for Circus Arts (ZICA). The organization mounted a six-day “Camp ZinZanni,” and opened the doors in July to 35 campers ages 11 to 15. The campers learned the basics of Juggling and Character/Scene Development, with the added benefit of increased confidence and self-esteem. At the end of the session, they created a free revue-style performance for family and friends under Teatro ZinZanni's antique red velvet *spiegel tent*. The one-week session was an amazing experience for all involved, and with the development funding offered by the Wallace Foundation, ZICA will now be a permanent part of the project, dedicated to the preservation, development and enhancement of ancient and contemporary circus arts, including Juggling, Clowning, Magic, and Acrobatics with an emphasis on all aspects of performance and production.

“The world we create each night at Teatro ZinZanni is deeply rooted in centuries of circus, theatre and music tradition. Most of our artists started their training as very young children and many of them are fourth or fifth generation circus artists,” said Norm Langill, CEO of One Reel and Artistic Director of Teatro ZinZanni. “Bringing along the next generation is the natural, expected thing. With the celebration of our tenth anniversary, we recognize the need to not only preserve these increasingly rare art forms and introduce them to young adults, but also to provide much-needed professional training opportunities for both artists and artisans to continue refining, defining and improving their craft.”

In July 2009, ZICA will expand its programming to include three summer camps and will offer each track twice – once for students ages 9 to 12 and once for students ages 13 to 16. The tracks include “AcroBalance + Clowning,” “Slapstick, Movement, Mime + Clowning,” and “Objects in Motion + Clowning.” Registration begins February 1, 2009. For complete information, please visit www.zica.zinzanni.org.

One Reel is one of the Northwest's oldest, largest and most unusual non-profit arts organizations. From humble beginnings as a traveling theatrical troupe in the early 1970's, the organization has evolved into a diverse, innovative and dynamic arts group that strives to be a cultural driver for the region. One Reel's constantly evolving program of arts and cultural events, performances and activities span the widest spectrum of disciplines, genres and perspectives, from punk rock to spoken word, Shakespeare to hip hop. From signature festivals and music events like Bumbershoot, Seattle's Arts and Music Festival and the Summer Nights at the Pier concert series, to the zany theatrical pastiche of Teatro ZinZanni, the organization has created over 500 different projects that celebrate live performance, and presented its work to audiences that now number over 8 million.

“We are incredibly grateful to The Wallace Foundation for honoring One Reel with inclusion in this year's Wallace Excellence Awards,” said Norm Langill, President of One Reel and Artistic Director of Teatro ZinZanni. “Through it, we look forward to making a meaningful and fun contribution to developing the cultural literacy and artistic experience of the next generation.”