



NEWS RELEASE

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Indiana Arts Commission announces USI grant award recipients

Several arts-related programs at The University of Southern Indiana were named grant award recipients by the Indiana Arts Commission today.

Aided by an IAC grant, The New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art will present eight exhibitions of contemporary visual art in the next year, beginning in July. In keeping with its mission, the exhibits will create opportunities for young artists to show their work in a professional atmosphere and provide access to contemporary art for the general public. The New Harmony Gallery shows a broad range of styles, media and concepts in contemporary art. It is located in New Harmony, Indiana.

Ropewalk Writers' Retreat is a week-long conference in creative writing sponsored by the University of Southern Indiana. This year conference dates are June 13 through June 19 in New Harmony, Indiana. The grant will provide scholarships for six minority students to attend the conference. Funding also will provide for video and audio taping of conference readings and lectures.

A third grant award will be used by The New Harmony Theatre to hire an architect to conduct a needs assessment of Murphy Auditorium, the main stage of The New Harmony Theatre. The assessment will be the first step in making the facility accessible to audience members for whom stairs are a barrier to attendance. The goal is to transform the historic theatre into an accessible, functional modern facility while retaining the historic theatrical integrity of the building.

The fourth grant was awarded to The New Harmony Theatre to help subsidize costs of the 1994 season. This year the theatre is embracing a new mission by offering high-quality, professional theatre productions of significant American plays. The theatre seeks to preserve and celebrate the universality of this dramatic writing. Operating with the belief that the theatre is one of the greatest educational resources available in our society, The New Harmony Theatre revels in the power of language, the value of presenting conflicting points of view, and the desire to deepen understanding of ourselves and the world around us.

The 1994 season opens on Friday, June 17 with *Picnic*, a Pulitzer Prize winning play by William Inge. The 1994 season will include *The Fantasticks*, *Born Yesterday*, and *Suddenly Last Summer*. The New Harmony Theatre is produced by USI.