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Stages Theatre Company to Receive \$10,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn. 2/4/21 – Stages Theatre Company (STC) has been approved for a \$10,000 Grants for Arts Projects award to support their upcoming Theatre for the Very Young production of [DOWN ON THE FARM: A Lift-the-Flap Adventure](#). This project will be a rich, multi-sensory, joyful experience, where the young child and their care giver will not only see a fun and entertaining performance, but also feel as if they have been our partner in creating the adventure. Down on the Farm will be a unique creative opportunity that nurtures the young child’s self-expression, social and emotional development, and problem-solving skills. Stages Theatre Company’s project is among 1,073 projects across America totaling nearly \$25 million that were selected during this first round of fiscal year 2021 funding in the Grants for Arts Projects funding category.

“The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support this project from Stages Theatre Company,” said Arts Endowment Acting Chairman Ann Eilers. “Stages Theatre Company is among the arts organizations across the country that have demonstrated creativity, excellence, and resilience during this very challenging year.”

“We (STC) are incredibly grateful for the support and endorsement of the National Endowment for the Arts for our upcoming experiential production of Down on the Farm,” said Stages Theatre Company Artistic Director Sandy Boren-Barrett. “Stages Theatre Company continues to innovate, engage and create theatre, even during the pandemic because our families are counting on us to provide this essential resource. STC’s Theatre for the Very Young series has become a favorite for families of our youngest audience members, and Down on the Farm promises to be another inspired, creative outdoor experience. We can’t wait to share it with you this summer.”

[DOWN ON THE FARM: A Lift-the-Flap Adventure](#) is an interactive creation by Stages Theatre Company specifically created for ages 0-5 as Theatre for the Very Young.

It’s an immersive, theatrical experience based on the concept of lift-the-flap picture books that is sure to delight our youngest audiences. Is that a cow under there? Or a chicken? Maybe this

time it's a pig or a barn full of hay. Journey [DOWN ON THE FARM](#) as we discover and explore inside and under the flap in this imaginative outdoor adventure.

ABOUT THEATRE FOR THE VERY YOUNG

Stages Theatre Company is quickly becoming a national leader in producing Theatre for the Very Young, a genre of theatre that has been popular in Europe and Australia for more than 25 years.

In this participatory, multi-sensory theatre genre for children age 18-months to 5 years and their caregivers, kids become an integral part of telling the story and are fully engaged throughout the show by professional adult actors and youth actors.

Launched in 2014 with our groundbreaking production of *The Dandelion Seed*, our Theatre for the Very Young productions have been met with an enormous amount of excitement, and are raising the bar in providing theatre experiences for the youngest of audiences.

For more information on projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit arts.gov/news and for more information about Stages Theatre Company and Down on the Farm, visit: stages theatre.org

HISTORY OF THEATRE FOR THE VERY YOUNG AT STAGES THEATRE COMPANY

- 2014 – *The Dandelion Seed*
- 2016 – *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*
- 2017 – *Swimmy Swimmy*
- 2018 – *On The Railroad*
- 2019 - *Leo Lionni's Inch by Inch*
- 2020 - *All the World: Out of the Box*



*Theatre for the Very Young at Stages Theatre Company.
Photo by Fischeye Films.*

Stages Theatre Company was founded in 1984 and since then has grown to become one of the largest professional theatres for young audiences in the country. We engage young artists with themes relevant to their lives and involve them in creating magical works featuring young people in meaningful roles. Through on-stage productions, education programs and other outreach opportunities, Stages Theatre Company annually serves more than 150,000 young people and their families. For more information visit www.stagestheatre.org

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[STAGES THEATRE COMPANY'S THEATRE FOR THE VERY YOUNG](#) publicity images, logos and videos are available for download here: <http://bit.ly/stc-nea2021>

Stages Theatre Company is committed to the enrichment and education of children and youth in a professional theatre environment that stimulates artistic excellence and personal growth.