



***For Immediate Release***

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**Mo'olelo Receives Grant from the NEA**

\$15,000 to support the production, community outreach and education program for *Yellow Face*

**May 3, 2010 - San Diego, CA** - Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company, San Diego's community-focused, socially-conscious, Equity theater company, today announced it is the recipient of an Access to Artistic Excellence Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The complete list of grant recipients can be found here: <http://www.nea.gov/grants/recent/10grants/10AAE2.php?CAT=Access&DIS=Theater>.

The \$15,000 grant will support Mo'olelo's upcoming production of the play *Yellow Face* by David Henry Hwang, running October 6 to 31, 2010 at The 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theatre in downtown San Diego, and its accompanying community and education outreach activities. A fast-paced satire, *Yellow Face* asks the question what it means to wear the Asian or Asian American identity. The play re-examines the 1990 casting controversy over the Broadway production of *Miss Saigon*, the 1999 accusation of espionage against Taiwanese-American scientist Wen Ho Lee, and the accidental casting of a white man in an Asian-American role, and boldly explores the complexities, contradictions and comedy of the construct of race and multiculturalism.

"The 2010 Access to Artistic Excellence II grant opportunity marked the first time Mo'olelo ever applied to the NEA," shared Board President Garry Prather. "We are extremely honored to receive federal funding for the first time. This grant raises Mo'olelo to a new level."

For information about *Yellow Face*, visit [www.moolelo.net](http://www.moolelo.net) or contact [tickets@moolelo.net](mailto:tickets@moolelo.net) or 619-342-7395.

**About Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company**

Founded in 2004, Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company is a socially-conscious theatre organization dedicated to broadening the scope of San Diego's cultural environment by telling powerful stories that are as diverse as the islands of Hawaii, by paying Equity wages to local actors and by developing environmentally-friendly theatre practices. Selected as the inaugural Resident Theatre Company at La Jolla Playhouse for 2008-2009, Mo'olelo is a recipient the Patté, San Diego Theatre Critics Circle, McDonald Playwriting and the Anti-Discrimination Awards. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Mo'olelo's mission is to create new works based on research within various communities, produce lesser-known works by master and contemporary playwrights, and educate youth. *Mo'olelo* means *story* in Hawaiian. To learn more, visit [www.moolelo.net](http://www.moolelo.net) or call 619-342-7395.

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