

GRANT EXCEPT FROM THE CREATIVE GROUP Q RENTAL SUBSIDY APPLICATION

Title of Project

The World Premiere of "Glassheart" by Reina Hardy

Project Description

Beauty never showed up. After centuries under the curse, the Beast and his one remaining magical servant have moved into a shabby apartment near a 7-11, hoping for a lower cost of living and better luck with girls. In the threatening, impossible, completely ordinary world of paying rent and taking public transportation, is a happy ending even possible? Are there witches in Chicago? Is this hat sufficient? And can a good story and a little light save the day?

A magical comedy about facing the witch in your head, and finding the wish in your heart.

Shrewd Productions is proud to present the world premiere of Glassheart, by Reina Hardy. Kyle Zamcheck directs an all-star ensemble in this imaginative and modern re-telling of Beauty and the Beast including Lana Dieterich, Carolyn Faye Kramer, Shannon Grounds and Michael Miller. Award-winning designers Pam Friday (costumes), Anne-Marie Gordon (set design), Patrick Anthony (lighting design), and Buzz Moran (sound design), and composer Adam Sultan create Hardy's magical world of a fairytale down-sized to a one-bedroom apartment.

How does this project contribute to diversity in arts programming in Austin?

Shrewd Productions has always focused on women's stories and new voices; featuring the work of female and queer artists and telling stories from fresh perspectives. In taking a classic fairytale and turning it on its head in this very modern setting, Hardy examines our relationship with these timeless stories and the roles of the women in them.

"Glassheart" is about love and finding "the wish in your heart", as Only, the protagonist of "Glassheart" tells us. But it is also about Only's journey to self-determination. By shifting the focus of the narrative to the Beast's only remaining servant, by giving us a "Beauty" that is not just a one-dimensional damsel in distress but a real woman with complicated problems, and by writing a "Witch" that is at once frightening and sympathetic, Reina Hardy makes this beloved fairytale resonate for modern audiences.

"Glassheart" represents Shrewd's continuing commitment to serving communities of writers and performers that are traditionally underrepresented on stages locally and nationally, including women and ethnic and cultural minorities, in an effort to draw attention to this important work.

How would this grant take your production to the next level?

Shrewd is committed to the employment of local artists, and provides competitive stipends to its directors, writers, performers, designers and running crew for each of its shows, despite limited resources. By defraying the cost of venue rental, the Q subsidy grant will allow Shrewd Productions to offer more substantial stipends, so that the company can continue to attract top-notch artists and provide higher production values for its patrons. Shrewd is committed to promoting Austin as a city that fosters new art and the careers of developing artists, and hopes the Creative Fund will support that demonstrated commitment.

By presenting "Glassheart" in cooperation with The Creative Fund, Shrewd Productions also hopes to increase its reach and further develop its growing core audience by utilizing the high visibility and strong base of arts patrons The Creative Fund is building. We hope to gain the recognition of a larger portion of the Austin arts-audience, while providing a unique and enriching experience for patrons that is representative of Austin's nationally acclaimed New Works theatre scene.