



From a series of images from "Vermont Backroads." (c) John Greiner-Ferris

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**PLAYWRIGHT JOHN GREINER-FERRIS AWARDED TWO GRANTS FOR
NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT**

**BOB JOLLY CHARITABLE TRUST AND VERMONT STUDIO CENTER
GRANTS TOTAL \$2,700.00**

Boston, MA (10.31.2017) **The Bob Jolly Charitable Trust** and **Vermont Studio Center** recently awarded **Alley Cat Theater's** founding artistic director John Greiner-Ferris grants totally \$2,700.00 in support of a month-long

residency in January 2018 at Vermont Studio Center where Mr. Greiner-Ferris will be working on a new play. The Bob Jolly Charitable Trust Grant awarded Mr. Greiner-Ferris \$1,000.00 and the Vermont Studio Center award totals \$1,700.00.

“My family and I couldn’t be more grateful for the financial support the Bob Jolly Charitable Trust and Vermont Studio Center are giving my work,” Greiner-Ferris said. “The Bob Jolly Charitable Trust’s support of small theaters and individual theater artists in Boston lessens the financial burden of creating new plays and allows theater artists like me to work with less worry about finances.

"And this is the second time the Vermont Studio Center has supported me. VSC is fertile ground for creating, and the time I spent there last January was some of the most productive I've ever had."

Every month at Vermont Studio Center at least 50 artists from around the world are provided studio residencies in an inclusive international community in the tiny mill town of Johnson, Vermont.

“My approach to theater is more like that of a sculptor,” explains Greiner-Ferris. “I first see a 3-D space, and then like a painter I see light and color. It’s only later that I populate the space with characters. To be able to work and eat and live side-by-side with painters, sculptors, photographers, metallurgists, along with poets, fiction writers, and essayists, is exactly what fuels my work, and I am so happy and feel so lucky to be returning.”

Alley Cat Theater Founded by playwright John Greiner-Ferris, Alley Cat Theater produces new work that is intelligent, compelling, and thoughtful, telling stories by pushing the boundaries of the theater. (www.alleycattheater.org)

The Bob Jolly Charitable Trust was established in 2013 by the late Bob Jolly, a longtime Boston actor who was especially known for his interpretations of the Gilbert & Sullivan comic characters, and for his work as a historic interpreter on the Freedom Trail. Jolly’s intention in setting up the Trust was to provide

support for local theater artists pursuing their craft in the Boston area. Grants are made to small theater organizations and individuals, and the history of the Trust, and story of Bob Jolly's life, can be found on the Bob Jolly Community page on Facebook.

Vermont Studio Center Settled in an old water-powered mill town with a current population of 3,446, Vermont Studio Center (VSC) was established by artists in 1984. It hosts over 50 artists per month, turning the mill economy into a culture-based economy for the town of Johnson. The campus includes 2-D and 3-D studios, writing studios, a yoga studio, meditation room, libraries, lecture hall for public events, two gallery spaces, and a communal dining hall. (www.vermontstudiocenter.org)

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Please Consider An End-Of-The-Year Tax Deductible Donation

Theater isn't cheap (what is, nowadays?) The Bob Jolly Charitable Trust and Vermont Studio Center grants just cover my housing, food, and studio space for the month of January. The majority of artists live on a shoestring, and always will have to dig into their own pockets to make the things they love. Your gift will play an important role in keeping intelligent, compelling, and thoughtful small theater alive in Boston in 2018. If you are excited by what you've seen from Alley Cat Theater and would like to support its mission, please consider contributing an end-of-the-year tax deductible donation.

Our goals:

- Explore and push the limits of the traditional theater through bold and challenging new local work
- Build an audience and a home for non-traditional new plays in Boston
- Be known for hiring diverse Boston-based casts and creative teams
- Act as inspiration to other playwrights, showing that they can take control of their artistic careers and that there are other viable routes to production besides the traditional theater model.

Alley Cat Theater is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a non-profit arts service organization. Contributions for the charitable purposes of Alley Cat Theater are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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