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PRESS RELEASE

Ross Travis of Antic in a Drain AWARDED AN UPSTATE CALIFORNIA CREATIVE CORPS GRANT!

Albion, CA July 19th, 2023 – Today Upstate California Creative Corps announced a grant award of 60k to Ross Travis and Antic in a Drain as part of a new pilot program serving California’s most vulnerable communities and environments, its least represented peoples, and some of society’s most critical issues.

Ross Travis and Antic in a Drain are one of 81 grantees chosen from among close to 300 applicants to this highly competitive grant program. Upstate California Creative Corps received a total ask of \$16 million with only \$3.38 million in grants awarded.

Grantees are collectively part of a media, outreach, and engagement campaign designed to increase awareness for issues such as public health, water and energy conservation, climate mitigation, and emergency preparedness, relief and recovery. California Arts Council views the California Creative Corps program as a job creation and human infrastructure development opportunity. Region by region, the program is increasing the ways in which artists are engaged in public work, so that they can continue to build upon intersectional public interest goals beyond its pilot funding timeline.

Funded projects serve Upstate’s most vulnerable communities, those identified via the California Healthy Places Index and other valuable local data sources. From place-based urban initiatives to multi-county regional projects that follow watersheds, tribal lands, forests, and some of California’s most remote mountain wilderness areas, projects engage diverse communities around solutions for some of society’s most fundamental challenges – through social practice and an array of artforms.

With support from Upstate California Creative Corps, Ross Travis and collaborators Ronlin Foreman, Steve Ritchie and John Ives will inspire community action to counter the effects of climate change on youth in Mendocino, Lake and Glenn Counties by creating a traveling, multi-disciplinary bouffon theater piece (also filmed and edited into a documentary) that uses a powerful mix of irreverent comedy, tragedy, ritual and interactive ecstatic play to inform, provoke and provide tools for agency and community action on this issue.

“The California Creative Corps initiative echoes the Works Progress Administration after the depression in the 30’s. WPA led to a renaissance of powerful new art during that era and I am so humbled and elated to be in the footsteps of that legacy as well as grateful to the state of California for supporting the arts and artists in these crazy times. I am so excited to connect with the communities I’m serving around climate issues that I care so deeply about” Say’s Artistic Director Ross Travis

A complete list of grantees can be found at <https://www.upstatecreativecorps.org/grantees>.

Ross Travis’ company Antic in a Drain combines circus and bouffon to develop extreme characters and tell stories from the fringes, **igniting dialogue and change within communities around ignored or taboo social issues.**

Antic in a Drain has developed three shows available for booking:

- *The Greatest Monkey Show On Earth*, a primate circus extravaganza that takes a satirical bite out of animal/human agency, premiered in 2014 after an Artist Residency at the San Francisco Circus Center, then toured to the Edmonton and Vancouver Fringe Festivals in Canada that same year, receiving a four-star review from Global News and the inaugural Artistic Risk Award in Vancouver. In 2016 Antic in a Drain was Artist-in-Residence at Kinetic Arts Center, where the second version of the *Greatest Monkey Show* was workshopped and performed. It was nominated for two 2016 Theatre Bay Area Awards for Outstanding Makeup and Costume Design and won for Costuming.
- *Bucko: Whaleman!*, a high seas whaling voyage that launches a satirical harpoon into the heart of human greed and natural resource consumption, premiered on Hyde Street Pier at San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park in 2017.
- *Tempting Fate*, a satirical sideshow entertainment reflecting the house of mirrors called climate change, premiered at Little Boxes Theater in 2019. The show was featured in the San Francisco Chronicle by Lily Janiak and was nominated for seven Theatre Bay Area Awards, including Outstanding Solo Production, Outstanding Direction of a

Specialty Production, Outstanding Creative Specialties for Mask AND Puppet Design, Outstanding Costume Design, and Outstanding Sound Design. The show won for Outstanding Creative Specialties for Mask Design.

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