

WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

MARK LAMOS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | MICHAEL BARKER, MANAGING DIRECTOR

NEWS RELEASE

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Westport Country Playhouse Receives Grant from National Endowment for the Arts

\$20,000 NEA Art Works grant to support autumn production of Lynn Nottage's "Mlima's Tale"

Westport Country Playhouse has been awarded a \$20,000 Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for the autumn production of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage's "Mlima's Tale." Directed by Mark Lamos, the drama will run from October 1 – 19.

"These awards, reaching every corner of the United States, are a testament to the artistic richness and diversity in our country," said Mary Anne Carter, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. "Organizations such as Westport Country Playhouse are giving people in their community the opportunity to learn, create, and be inspired."

"Mlima's Tale" is a powerful, theatrical fable about a magnificent and beloved Kenyan elephant named Mlima hunted for his coveted ivory tusks. As traffickers maneuver the illicit ivory market, the animal's invincible spirit follows their path of desire, greed, crime, and corruption.

The Playhouse will offer several community engagement events in conjunction with the production of "Mlima's Tale" to facilitate dialogue around the topical issues the play addresses.

"NEA funding is crucial to the work we do at the Playhouse," said Mark Lamos, Westport Country Playhouse artistic director. "I'm so glad they are partnering with us on Lynn Nottage's mesmerizing play which sends the audience on a kaleidoscopic journey around the world from the perspective of one of the earth's most spectacular creatures."

Art Works is the Arts Endowment's principal grantmaking program. The agency received 1,592 Art Works applications for this round of grantmaking, and awarded 977 grants in this category.

For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit arts.gov/news.

For more Westport Country Playhouse information and to buy tickets, visit www.westportplayhouse.org or call the box office at (203) 227-4177, toll-free at 1-888-927-7529, or visit Westport Country Playhouse, 25 Powers Court, off Route 1, Westport. Stay connected to the Playhouse on Facebook (Westport Country Playhouse), follow on Twitter (@WCPlayhouse), and on YouTube (WestportPlayhouse).

- MORE -

WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

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ABOUT WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

The mission of Westport Country Playhouse is to enrich, enlighten, and engage the community through the power of professionally produced *theater worth talking about* and the welcoming experience of the Playhouse campus. The not-for-profit Playhouse provides this experience in multiple ways by offering: Live theater experiences of the highest quality, under the artistic direction of Mark Lamos; educational and community engagement events to further explore the work on stage; the New Works Initiative, a program dedicated to the discovery, development, and production of new live theatrical works; programs for students and teachers with extensive curriculum support material; Script in Hand play readings to deepen relationships with audiences and artists; the renowned Woodward Internship Program during the summer months for aspiring theater professionals; Family Festivities presentations to delight young and old alike and to promote reading through live theater; youth performance training and performance opportunities through Broadway Method Academy, WCP's resident conservatory; and the beautiful and historic Playhouse campus open for enjoyment and community events year-round.

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