



UNITEDPERFORMINGARTSFUND

A Conversation with Molly Rhode, actor, teacher, director, choreographer

Throughout her career, Molly has worked for 10 UPAF Member Groups and Affiliates. Read on to see how your donation to UPAF has affected her life and career.

Q: Did you always want to be a performer?

A: I don't remember a time that I didn't enjoy performing. As a kid, I was into play-acting, and we made our parents watch us perform in ridiculous, made-up shows. But, it didn't occur to me that it could be a vocation until I was older, probably when I first started at First Stage when I was 13. I was working with professional actors for the first time, and I realized, "Oh, you can make a living at this." That was an epiphany.



Q: You made a conscious decision to return to Milwaukee after college to build your career. Tell us about that choice.

A: I went out of state for my undergraduate work, and it was really good for me to be away from home for a while and experience another part of the country. When I got to my junior year, I was surprised at how much I missed the Midwest and this artistic community in particular. I had no idea how extraordinary our artistic community is here in Milwaukee, and how high the standard of excellence is, until I left.

Q: Can you share about the impact of UPAF on your career as an actor, teacher, choreographer and director?

A: UPAF makes my career possible and the careers of many of my fellow artists. If you take UPAF out of the equation from many organizations' budgets, they wouldn't be able to produce at the level that they do now. UPAF allows Member Groups to do more work and at a higher level, and that trickles down to artists. I would have far fewer opportunities if UPAF did not exist. Our artistic community is unique and special, and UPAF is the backbone of that community.

Q: What message would you give to UPAF donors?

A: I'm incredibly grateful to UPAF donors because they help me to do my job and do it well. A gift to UPAF directly impacts me and my opportunity to tell stories, whether I'm acting or directing or teaching. I also think a gift to UPAF impacts the community; it comes back to you. UPAF donors are supporting the uniqueness of this city, this living, breathing artistic endeavor.



Molly Rhode in a Skylight Music Theatre production.

Because of you, our area performers are able to share their incredible talents with all of us.

Thank you for being a vital part of the performance!



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