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News Release

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Quest Honored with National Award for Engaging Individuals with Disabilities

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 1, 2009 – Arts Presenters and MetLife Foundation recently announced that Quest: Arts for Everyone has been selected to receive the 2010 Arts Presenters/MetLife Arts Access Award for Engaging Individuals with Disabilities.

The award will be presented at the 2010 Arts Presenters' Awards Luncheon on Jan. 11, 2010, in New York, as a part of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters annual member conference. It includes a grant of \$10,000, and Quest will be featured as an award recipient in an upcoming issue of "Inside Arts" magazine.

In notifying Quest of the award, Arts Presenters stated, "Arts Presenters is proud to present you with this award in recognition of your innovative programming, community engagement and commitment to accessibility. You are truly setting an example for other arts organizations across the country."

Quest, which is formally called "Quest: arts for everyone," was founded in 1997 and is based in Lanham, Md. It is a group of artists, educators and dedicated volunteers representing a diverse ethnic, cultural and artistic panorama who are committed to using the arts to promote understanding among all peoples, promote excellence in the arts, and enable individuals who have been marginalized to realize their full potential. Forty-five percent of Quest artists are deaf or have disabilities. Seventy percent are artists of color.

The Catalogue for Philanthropy has recognized Quest as one of the Baltimore/Washington region's best small charities, and the Maryland State Arts Council Theatre Panel review consistently ranks Quest as one of the state's top five organizations. Over the last 10 years, no theatre company in the United States has presented or employed more deaf artists, designers and technicians than Quest.

Quest will be presenting its biennial QuestFest in March of 2010. QuestFest 2010 will feature a two-week concentration of an array of visual theatre with more than 40 performances by 11 internationally acclaimed theatre companies in venues throughout the Washington and Baltimore metropolitan areas. Quest's partners in QuestFest include Gallaudet University, Towson University, Baltimore Theatre Project, Creative Alliance, Imagination Stage and Center Stage. For more information, visit: <http://www.questfest.org/>

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