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STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS FOUNDATION (SDCF)  
AWARDS \$10,000 DENHAM FELLOWSHIP TO CRISTIN CAROLE

(April 12, 2024 – New York, NY) Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (SDCF), the not-for-profit foundation of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), today announced **Cristin Carole** has been selected as this season's SDCF Denham Fellow for her upcoming production of *A Night at Club Delisa* at the Harold Washington Cultural Center in Chicago, Illinois produced by The Sammy Dyer School of Theatre. The Denham Fellowship is awarded annually to women who are early and mid-career directors to further develop their directing skills. The Denham Fellowship comes with a \$10,000 stipend. Carole was unanimously selected for this honor by a panel comprised of Nancy Keystone (Committee Chair), Mina Morita, Lisa Portes, and Laurie Woolery.

"As a Black woman director, I am immensely honored and grateful to be named a SDCF Denham Fellow. This prestigious fellowship recognizes the importance of cultivating innovative direction within the theatrical arts, especially from underrepresented voices. It will allow me to further develop my craft and explore new creative avenues for staging authentic, impactful stories on stage. My deepest thanks to the SDC Foundation for this incredible opportunity," said Carole on receiving this award.

To learn more visit: <https://sdcfoundation.org/opportunities/fellowships/2023-2024-sdcf-fellows/>

**About *A Night at Club Delisa***

In 1933, African-American, tap dancer Sammy Dyer left a successful career on Broadway, to establish himself as a choreographer in Chicago. He found work in the many post-prohibition clubs that soon opened all over Chicago. He developed a chorus line called the Regalettes and later the Delisa Chorines. His unique approach to an evening of entertainment was most uniquely expressed in the shows he created at the Club Delisa in the 1940s -1950s where he ultimately perfected his showmanship in his presentation of the Dyerettes, 5 young Black women, who tapped, tumbled, sang and danced on point. In addition to the Dyerettes, evenings included a swinging live band, stand-up comedy, tap duos, novelty acts, a kiddie cabaret, and singers. Our show will capture the lives of these historic performers both on and off stage in this unique venue on the south side of Chicago.

### About Cristin Carole

**Cristin Carole** is a multi-faceted performing arts professional based in Chicago. This year, Cristin will make her directorial debut as associate director at Goodman Theatre, working alongside resident director Chuck Smith on August Wilson's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*. Most recently, Cristin became a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, as well as an SDCF Denham Fellow. In this capacity, she is focused on championing diversity and excellence in the arts by directing Black and female stories on stage. Her interdisciplinary research on historical Black dances has inspired the development of an original production, *A Night at the Club Delisa* which she will direct this fall. She would like to thank her long-time collaborator, Chicago director Ron O.J. Parson, actress/director/writer Regina Taylor, producer Peter Altman, dancer and comedian Clarice White-Pruitt, and many others for their incredible professional support during her transition to director.

Though she began her career as a ballerina, she transitioned to behind-the-scenes work, earning a degree in technical theater from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Cristin went on to become an acclaimed movement designer and choreographer, lending her talents to esteemed theaters like Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Goodman Theatre, Timeline Theatre Company, American Blues Theater, and Writers Theatre. At the Tony Award-winning Court Theatre, she has designed movement for productions including *Home*, *Seven Guitars*, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, *George Gershwin's Porgy and Bess*, and most recently *Gospel at Colonus* which successfully remounted at the Getty Villa in California.

As a performing arts educator, Cristin has held faculty positions at institutions including Columbia College Chicago, City Colleges of Chicago, the University of the Bahamas, and Loyola University. She is dedicated to arts education programming, having developed initiatives for organizations like The Joffrey Ballet, Chicago Public Schools, and the Shirley Hall Bass Foundation, which she directs to promote dance education and cultural exchange between The Bahamas and Chicago. She serves on the Board of Classical Kids LIVE! and is delighted to be the choreographer for their internationally touring production of "Saint-Georges' Sword and Bow."

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### About the Denham Fellowship

Established by Mary Orr Denham in 2006 with a bequest to the SDC Foundation in honor of her late husband, Reginald H. F. Denham, the Denham Fellowship is awarded annually to women who are early and mid-career directors to further develop their directing skills. The Denham Fellowship recipient is selected by the Denham Committee, which is made up of theatre professionals.

Past recipients include Colette Robert, Arpita Mukherjee, Michelle Bossy, May Adrales, Tea Alagic, Rachel Alderman, Kathleen Amshoff, Jessi Hill, Joanie Schultz, Pirronne Yousefzadeh, Bridget Leak, Hannah Ryan, Diane Rodriguez, and Shirley Jo Finney.

### About SDCF

Founded in 1965, Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (SDCF) celebrates, develops, and supports professional stage directors and choreographers throughout every phase of their

careers. SDCF works to build a theatrical community that reflects the cultural, racial, and gender diversity of our nation by creating opportunities for artists of all backgrounds to bring their full, authentic selves to their work as creative leaders in the theatre. SDCF's goals are to provide opportunities to practice the crafts of directing and choreography; to gather and disseminate craft and career information; to promote the profession to emerging talent; to provide opportunities for exchange of knowledge among directors and choreographers; to increase the awareness of the value of directors' and choreographers' work; and to convene around issues affecting theatre artists. [www.sdcfoundation.org](http://www.sdcfoundation.org).

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