

## Faces of Theatre Bay Area: Meredith Hagedorn



The Faces of Theatre Bay Area celebration honors members of our artistic community whose work exemplifies Theatre Bay Area's mission: to unite, promote and advance Bay Area theatre and dance. Today's honoree: **Meredith Hagedorn**, founding artistic director of Dragon Productions Theatre Company.

**Who are you? Can you give us some background on how you got to where you are today?**

My name is Meredith Hagedorn. I have been a performer from a very young age. I have been an acting coach, director and professional actor for over 20 years. I founded Dragon Productions Theatre Company upon moving to the Bay Area in 2000 to provide more opportunities for people who had similar desires to be a part of the kind of theatre I was interested in. We are about to launch our 13th season in our second theatre facility, which we built as a home for Dragon's productions, classes and other activities. I continue to teach acting to all ages, and direct and perform on Dragon's stage and else-

where when schedule allows.

**Tell us about your involvement with Theatre Bay Area.**

I have been extremely involved in the theatre community shepherded by Theatre Bay Area. I diligently attend the South Bay Regional Theatre meetings, attend the annual conferences, participate in the South Bay postcard distributions and audit the South Bay General Auditions. I have benefited greatly from the resources and contacts that I have made through Theatre Bay Area through the years.

**Why is theatre important? And what do you see as your role in making theatre a vital part of the national cultural conversation?**

Theatre is food for the soul. I truly believe that artists who are given an outlet to express themselves can become better citizens in the world as well as healthier individuals in their own lives. I have found theatre to be that outlet in my own life, and can honestly say that it has saved my life on many levels. In providing opportunities as a theatre producer, I am able to help so many others in their search for their own crucial personal expressions.

**What aspects of the Bay Area theatre community make you proud to be a member?**

I have learned so much from the Bay Area theatre community and am grateful to be a part of it. We are constantly challenged to find the relevancy in what we are trying to create in this tight-knit theatre community and ask the hard questions. Theatre Bay Area has been a tremendous advocate for us in this never-ending challenge. I believe that Theatre Bay Area makes us all better artists in stronger organizations.

**Theatre Bay Area invites you to join us for the Faces of Theatre Bay Area celebration on March 4, 2013, at the new home of the SF Playhouse (450 Post Street, San Francisco)! For more information, visit [theatrebayarea.org/Faces](http://theatrebayarea.org/Faces).**