

ASTR American Society for Theatre Research

Spring 2008

Dear Colleagues,

Starting in May 2008, the Internal Revenue Service will begin distributing rebates to qualified taxpayers. Though economists have questioned the potential of these rebates to heal the U.S. economy, we see a rare and undeniable opportunity to *stimulate the intellectual economy* of our professional organization. We ask you to consider *joining us* in contributing a portion—small or large—of our stimulus rebates to ASTR.

With a strong and stable endowment fund, ASTR can:

- Expand our offering of grants and fellowships to scholars, artists, and students;
- Initiate new awards and fellowships in recognition of excellence in scholarship, teaching, artistic production, and civic engagement; and
- Continue to support rigorous and engaging dialogue and collaboration at our yearly conferences;
- Ensure that future generations of theater scholars and practitioners will benefit from ASTR's extraordinary intellectual culture.

Of course, we realize that these rebates will be arriving when broad economic outlooks are less-than enthusiastic. During this pledge drive, we are asking members to take up the *spirit* of the stimulus package by contributing to the endowment of ASTR—thus sustaining fellowship and award funding levels at a time when investments are not generating high returns, and simultaneously helping to secure the future of the organization.

ASTR is a registered charity and all contributions are tax deductible. We are updating the web page so that contributions can be made on-line; in the meantime, checks can be sent to ASTR, P.O. Box 1798, Boulder CO, 80301.

Please join us in stimulating the intellectual economy of ASTR!

Sincerely,

Tracy C. Davis (President ASTR), Patrick Anderson, Virginia Anderson, Dennis Beck, and Margaret Knapp

ASTR's Fundraising Committee

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