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## **PINK UMBRELLA THEATER LAUNCHES A DISABILITY THEATER COHORT**

January 21, 2025– MILWAUKEE. Pink Umbrella Theater, the only professional theater company focused on working with Disabled Actors and Artists in Milwaukee, has launched a Disability Theater Cohort. The Pink Umbrella Theater Company is aware of a hole in the theater cannon when it comes to shows written to be performed by Disabled Actors and Artists. In an effort to fill this gap, we received a grant from the [Ruth Foundation for the Arts](#) to create a cohort of writers, composers and actors from across the nation to create best practices and write shows for actors to perform. 2025 marks the inaugural cohort and we hope for many more iterations in the future.

Patrick Thompson, NY based writer is looking forward to the work. “I am excited to collaborate with these artists in our effort to explore accessible theatre-making. I feel very lucky to be able to have conversations and create with these ten writers who are already experts in their own craft. Together, we will dive deep into what accessible theatre looks like and how we can expand the canon of theatrical works so that more people feel welcome in the theater.”

Founder, Katie Cummings knows that “the stories we see on stage won’t change until we change the narrator. Bringing together 20 actors and writers who identify with a disability and/or who are disabled-adjacent will create 20 more advocates who will bring about changing the landscape of theater as we know it.”

This project is a collaborative effort focused on creating accessible content and materials for performers, theatremakers and audiences with disabilities. Writers will create new original material based on the prompts in the exploration sessions. Actors will receive these materials and interpret them. Actors will offer feedback on the materials and writers will observe the interpretations.

Work from the Disability Theater Cohort will be performed in October. More information on dates and location in the months ahead.

### **About Pink Umbrella Theater Co.**

Founded in September 2018, the Pink Umbrella Theater Co. creates Disability Theater with actors and artists who identify with an intellectual, emotional or physical disability. Classes, consultations and professional productions are offered year round. [www.pinkumbrellatheater.org](http://www.pinkumbrellatheater.org)

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