

Mary Brand funds were spent on securing our performance space, on marketing materials, royalties, and on the fundamental set/costume/prop/lighting equipment needed for our Student Director Mentorship. This put us in a unique position to use crowdfunding funds to pay our Directing Mentor for the first time, as well as hire a Tech Mentor to support our student stage manager. This was a huge step for the program, and it allowed the directing mentor to spend more quality time with their mentee. Two full rehearsals were spent sharing mindfulness techniques and teaching consent-based practices around theatrical intimacy to our high school students. These techniques were practiced regularly and implemented by our student director. Such careful attention was made possible by having the funds to hire additional help and support.

As a result, a truly remarkable performance took place the first weekend of March. Our student director wrote that "Over these past few months I have grown not just as an artist, but also as a person - and that is because of you. (the directing mentor) Thank you from the bottom of my heart!" Our students performed three shows to sold-out audiences and standing ovations.

We truly appreciate what the Mary Brand Award did for Enso and our mentorship program. Thank you very, very much.

Warmly,

Caitlin Lushington

*she/her/hers*

Artistic/Managing Director

Enso Theatre Ensemble