BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA
by Anna Ouyang Moench
DIRECTED BY SERGE SEIDEN

LIVE AT MOSAIC THEATER
OCT 27 - NOV 21
When the Mayor’s stay at home order went into effect on March 25, 2020 the Mosaic staff and the creative teams of The Till Trilogy and Inherit the Windbag left the theater hoping to return in a few weeks.

We have our personal and collective memories of the historic months between then and now.

We also recognize that this is "a moment." We are beginning again.

And we are doing so in a way that is vastly different.

We have committed ourselves to beginning again more equitably and more humanely than we might ever have imagined possible.

Some very brave people put themselves on the line instigating a movement to dismantle and reduce the harms of systemic racism in our industry. We are a part of that. Our renewed joy stems from that opportunity and challenge.

We have strived to make Birds of North America in this new way.

Because this is a play at least in part about the struggle to be seen and understood it suits the moment perfectly.

The birds of Birds of North America are the Tufted Titmouse, Nuthatch, Cardinal, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Red-tailed Hawk, Mourning Dove, Blue Grosbeak, Chipping Sparrow, Cowbird, and Woodpecker.

If you listen carefully, like a birder, by the time the play is through, you'll be able to check them off your life list.

**NOTES**

**Nuthatches** are blue-gray birds with strongly patterned heads: a black cap and stripe through the eye broken up by a white stripe over the eye. The underparts are rich rusty-cinnamon.

**Tufted Titmice** are soft silvery gray above and white below, with a rusty or peach-colored wash down the flanks and a black patch just above the bill.

For more about the birds of North America [click here](#).
Anna Ouyang Moench is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter. Her plays include *Mothers*, *Man of God*, *Birds of North America*, and *Sin Eaters*. Anna has received fellowships and residencies from The Playwrights Realm, New York Foundation of the Arts, the Jerome Foundation, and the Van Lier Foundation among many others. Her awards include the Paul Stephen Lim Playwriting Award from the Kennedy Center, Boulder Ensemble Theater Company’s Generations Award, and East West Players’ 2042: See Change Award. She is an alum of UCSD’s Playwriting M.F.A. program, the Emerging Writers Group at the Public Theater, Youngblood at Ensemble Studio Theatre, the Jam at New Georges, and writers groups at East West Players and the Echo Theater Company. In television and film, Anna has worked with HBO, Netflix, and Universal, and currently writes for Severance (Apple TV+). Anna has productions this season at the Public Theater and Geffen Playhouse, and she is the recipient of a Gerbode Special Award in the Arts commission for a new play that will be produced at the Magic Theatre in 2023. She lives with her family in Los Angeles.
Written By
Anna Ouyang Moench

Directed By
Serge Seiden

Set Designer....................................................Alexa Ross
Lighting Designer.............................................Brittany Shemuga
Costume Designer............................................Brandee Mathies
Sound Designer...............................................David Lamont Wilson
Properties Designer.................................Deborah Thomas
Stage Manager................................................Samantha Wilhelm*

“Birds of North America” is generously underwritten by Joan P. and David O. Maxwell with additional support from Dr. Frances and Tom Wills.

Mosaic’s 21/22 Season is also funded in part by Co-Founder Dan Logan, Gloria Logan and The Revada Foundation; The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities, an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts; Eugene M. Lang Foundation; The Reva and David Logan Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts; The Share Fund; The Shubert Foundation; Cathy & Bob Solomon; The Steinglass Family.

With gratitude and admiration, Mosaic Theater Company is honored to dedicate the 2021/22 Season in memory of our dear friend and supporter, Marvin Weissberg.

“Birds of North America” was first produced by Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company in 2017.

We honor and respect the diverse Indigenous peoples on whose land Mosaic Theater and the Atlas Performing Arts Center sits, particularly what is defined as the District of Columbia; including the Piscataway tribal nation. This land acknowledgement is to recognize and honor the elders of the Indigenous peoples and the genocide, forceful removal and displacement of the peoples whose lands and territories were stolen from them. As a part of this recognition, we encourage attendees who wish to learn more about injustices and the histories of Indigenous peoples to support or visit the following resources: Native American Rights Fund and National Indian Education Association.
DEAR MAPEL

By Psalmayene 24 | Directed by Natsu Onoda Power
JAN 19 - FEB 13, 2022

Told with distinctive heart, musicality, and humor, Psalmayene 24’s joyfully energetic story of loss and healing takes us from Park Slope, Brooklyn to Washington, DC, on a journey to connect with an estranged father, Mapel, and all he represents.

PRIVATE

By Mona Pirnot | Directed by Knud Adams
MAR 23 - APR 17, 2022

Georgia’s husband, Corbin, has been offered his dream job. But there’s a catch. In an all-too-near future where privacy is a commodity, one married couple grapples with which secrets they’re willing to reveal—especially to each other.

MARYS SEACOLE

By Jackie Sibblies Drury | Directed by Eric Ruffin
MAY 4 - MAY 29, 2022

Based in part on the autobiography of Mary Seacole, this play charts one woman’s extraordinary journey through space and time: from mid-1800s Jamaica, to the frontlines of the Crimean War, to a modern-day nursing home.

IN HIS HANDS

By Benjamin Benne | Directed by José Carrasquillo
JUN 22 - JUL 17, 2022

Daniel is falling for Christian. But as these men explore the potential of their new relationship, Christian’s past threatens to overpower their connection. A radically contemporary, queer rom-com that asks provocative questions about faith and desire.

BECOME A MEMBER & SAVE!
Depending on who you ask, there could be as few as 50 billion or as many as 428 billion. That wide range encapsulates the difficulty in capturing the diversity, vastness, and patterns of birds. But no matter the estimates of how many birds there might be, there are undoubtedly fewer now than there were then. Whether "then" is 50 years ago, 100 years ago, or 400 years ago, we know that the bird population has been noticeably declining for centuries. Most estimates average that there are around 7 billion birds in the United States and Canada. That may sound like a lot, but in 1970, North America was home to an estimated 10 billion birds. This means, as the Audubon Society puts it, "North America has lost more than 1 in 4 birds in the last 50 years."

The reasons for the decline in birds are a combination of obvious and surprising effects of human choices: habitat loss due to agriculture and urbanization, collisions with buildings and other human-made structures, and yes, even domestic cats that humans let roam outdoors kill billions of birds a year. But although these factors have caused a sharp decline in the bird population, the acceleration of climate change will manifest in much different but equally devastating ways.

Climate change's effects on birds almost entirely alter their capacity to migrate, feed, and nest. As global temperatures rise, birds' migratory patterns generally shift closer to the poles where heat is more manageable, forcing birds to travel farther and farther from their natural habitats over time. Additionally, many of the plants and insects that migratory birds eat are no longer as abundant, meaning that they have a harder time gauging when food is plentiful enough to start nesting. All of these factors put together mean that most bird species are having difficulties maintaining their populations. As people discover these issues, the initial response is to engage in environmentalist efforts to preserve and propagate bird populations. But these efforts may actually have adverse effects on birds in the long-term.

Like with many environmental issues, the solution of how to help the bird population is a struggle of conservation vs. climate activism. Although on the surface these two are inextricably intertwined, conservation is a short-term solution to the long-term problem of climate change. People can create new habitats, establish breeding programs, and mandate that every cat be an indoor cat in order to maintain the bird population, but if global temperatures alter birds' migratory patterns, nesting times, and food supply, none of these efforts will demonstrably bring the bird population to "normal." Like John and Caitlyn in Birds of North America, we are noticing how many differences there are around us from the effects of climate change and have choices we can make in how to respond. In these actions, we can either imagine a future where we can wonder how many birds there are in the world, or imagine a future where we nostalgically think about how many there used to be.

Cats equipped with a bell return 41% fewer birds than those with a plain collar. Save birds by putting a bell on your cat.
Independent, intercultural, entertaining, and uncensored, Mosaic Theater Company is committed to making transformational, socially-relevant art, producing plays by authors on the front lines of conflict zones, and to building a fusion community to address some of the most pressing issues of our times. Dedicated to making our theater a model of diversity and inclusion at every strata, on stage and off, Mosaic invests in the new as we keep abreast of our changing and challenging times to ensure that our theater is a responsive gathering space, all the while nurturing and producing art of the highest order.

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Kaylin Luces
Assistant Stage Manager

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Master Electrician

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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With gratitude and admiration, Mosaic Theater Company is honored to dedicate the 21/22 Season in memory of our dear friend and supporter, Marvin Weissberg.

“Towering Mosaic supporter, Marvin Weissberg, died of COVID-related complications on May 17 at the age of 94. For his dedication to Mosaic Theater and justice - in word and deed - we are proud to dedicate the current Season to Marvin's memory. We will miss him enormously.”

Serge Seiden, Managing Director
Mosaic Theater Company

Without Marvin Weissberg and the Weissberg Foundation, Mosaic Theater would not be what it has become.

Marvin was the lead underwriter for three productions, most recently Eureka Day, just before the pandemic. In prior seasons, he supported the productions Milk Like Sugar and Shooting Gallery. He also gave generously to Mosaic’s Annual Fund.
Choreographers Society. Victoria has trained and is a member of the Stage Directors and the Washington, DC metropolitan area directed numerous productions throughout. Victoria is an artist in her own right and has a BFA in Theatre Arts from Howard University, a multi-focal perspective. Our plays speak truth to power and to the private parts of our diversity and inclusion at every strata, on stage and off, Mosaic invests in the new as of the most pressing issues of our times. Dedicated to making our theater a model of art that celebrates the diversity our city will continue to be a part of DC's...
UP NEXT AT MOSAIC

DEAR MAPEL
by Psalmayene 24
DIRECTED BY NATSU ONODA POWER

JAN 19 - FEB 13
FOR TICKETS & MORE INFO CLICK HERE