Dear Friends,

It is with great excitement and gratitude that I write to you as Mosaic Theater’s new Artistic Director. What a way to start the New Year! Mosaic’s mission of producing plays that spark conversation and connections amongst the DMV’s diverse communities is my mission and I am inspired to lead our team forward in a spirit of empathy and artistic excellence.

Few artists, if any, embody empathy and artistic excellence more than Psalmayene 24, the writer and performer of this world premiere production of Dear Mapel. Having worked with Psalm for a few years now, I continue to stand in awe of his remarkable talents, profound insights about our world, and kind heart. Dear Mapel combines those three signature traits into a poignant play about family, community, and the power of art to heal, anchored by a tour-de-force performance from this DC legend and national treasure. And if that is not enough to get you excited, Dear Mapel is directed by renowned theater director – and my former professor! – Natsu Onoda Power, an artist with a vivid imagination who has created a theatrical world like none other for us. I am honored to have Psalm, Natsu, and the phenomenal percussionist JabariDC on stage at Mosaic, and I know that after this performance, you will be just as amazed by them as I am.

Creating new work that reflects the world around us with curiosity and hope will be the trademark of this next chapter of Mosaic Theater. As we look ahead, we will continue to support artists like Psalm and Natsu who center their creativity in courage and produce work like Dear Mapel, plays that are both artistically ambitious and deeply moving. I cannot wait to share what is in store for Mosaic with you and am so grateful to have your support as we build ahead.

Here’s to the next chapter!

Reginald L. Douglas
MOSAIC THEATER COMPANY of DC PRESENTS

DEAR MAPEL

Written By Psalmayene 24

Directed By Natsu Onoda Power

Production Designer ......................... Natsu Onoda Power
Lighting Designer ................................ Alberto Segarra
Projections Designer .......................... Kelly Colburn
Costume Designer ............................ Danielle Preston
Sound Designer .............................. Nick “tha 1da” Hernandez
Stage Manager .............................. Simone Baskerville
Assistant Stage Manager .................. Kaylin Luces
Dramaturg .................................. Jocelyn Clarke

Dear Mapel is generously underwritten by Barbara & Thomas Gottschalk.

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; Nina & Wesley Weissberg, The Marvin F. Weissberg Memorial Fund.

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

Since he was two years old and has been blessed with music. He has been acting, drumming, and rapping...
ACCESSIBILITY AT MOSAIC

OPEN CAPTIONED PERFORMANCES & ASL INTERPRETED DISCUSSIONS at Mosaic

DEAR MAPEL
BY PSALMAYENE 24
DIRECTED BY NATSU ONODA POWER

Friday, January 21st @ 8PM (OC + ASL Post Show)
Saturday, February 5th @ 3PM (OC)
Saturday, February 5th @ 8PM (OC + ASL Post Show)
Thursday, February 10th @ 11AM (OC)

PRIVATE
BY MONA PIRNOT
DIRECTED BY KNUD ADAMS

Friday, March 25th @ 8PM (OC + ASL Post Show)
Saturday, April 9th @ 3PM (OC)
Saturday, April 9th @ 8PM (OC + ASL Post Show)
Thursday, April 14th @ 11AM (OC)

MARYS SEACOLE
BY JACKIE SIBLIES DRURY
DIRECTED BY ERIC RUFFIN

Friday, May 6th @ 8PM (OC + ASL Post Show)
Saturday, May 21st @ 3PM (OC)
Saturday, May 21st @ 8PM (OC + ASL Post Show)
Thursday, May 26th @ 11AM (OC)

IN HIS HANDS
BY BENJAMIN BENNE
DIRECTED BY JOSÉ CARRASQUILLO

Friday, June 24th @ 8PM (OC + ASL Post Show)
Saturday, July 9th @ 3PM (OC)
Saturday, July 9th @ 8PM (OC + ASL Post Show)
Thursday, July 14th @ 11AM (OC)

LISTENING DEVICES & WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE SEATING ARE AVAILABLE
please ask an usher for assistance
ON MEETING PSALMAYENE 24

N: I met him through hip hop. How did you meet him, at Howard?

J: I met Psalm when I was 15 years old. It was Kamilah Forbes [of The Apollo Theater], I was in the Freestyle Union when I was 15 and she and Toni Blackman asked me to do something called "Why I Hate Valentine's Day," and they asked me to write a rhyme. And at that time, it was just like we were renegades, we were rebels, and we were just like, we define our own holidays and realities and stuff like that. So I wrote a rhyme and then Psalm directed me on how to stage that rhyme. We started rehearsing and I literally still use the techniques from the very first rehearsal. I started using those techniques on all my students, and most of them I still use to this day. Because of that training, I felt like I could teach it.

ON LINEAGE AND MUSIC

N: How did you get introduced to hip hop? The music?

J: It was happening in D.C. So by the time I was two years old, I was recording myself rapping. And I was serious, you know? But yeah, my dad introduced me to jazz. He took me to the first jazz club, but my mom introduced me to pretty much everything else– reggae and hip hop and West African music. Those three or four genres were my foundation. Of course, I live in D.C., so that's how I got to go-go.

I mean, my dad took me to one jazz club that I don't really remember. Other than that, my relationship with music is actually one hundred percent through my mom. So, there's a lot about this play that I relate to in terms of that, Psalm's relationship with his father, even though my dad was present.

ON LOVE OF HIP HOP

N: See, I keep trying to tie it all back. And this is what I get from Psalm, him sharing his story. All the things we've talked about, from fatherhood to health to all this like, where do you learn these things if you're not learning them from your parent or grandparent or somebody like that? Where do you get the equivocal knowledge?

J: Hip hop gave me— I fall in love with myself because of hip hop. It's how your personality, how you conditioned your subconscious to be a good person as opposed to having triggers and being all over the place emotionally– it's hip hop that doing that, specifically hip hop is doing all that spiritual work for me, hands down, one hundred percent.

To read the full conversation, go to: https://mosaictheater.org/blog

Excerpts from Dear Mapel's JabariDC and Nick tha 1da in conversation about the demi-gods of hip hop theater and a collaboration decades in the making.
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.
Mosaic Theater Company of DC produces bold, culturally eclectic theater that illuminates critical issues, elevates fresh voices and perspectives, and fosters dialogue amongst communities throughout our region and beyond. Under the leadership of the newly-appointed Artistic Director Reginald L. Douglas and Managing Director Serge Selden, Mosaic produces plays that spark conversation and connections amongst the DC Metro area’s diverse communities and sees itself as a neighbor and partner with those communities. By sharing stories that both entertain and enlighten, Mosaic uses art to build empathy amongst diverse people united by the magic of theater and hopes to build community by reflecting the people and the many cultures that call DC home.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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.

MOSAIC’S MISSION

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WE ACKNOWLEDGE

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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“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 F. 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.
Thank you to our donors.

Please add our many, many donors, who have made possible the vision of a vibrant, influential, and entertaining theater. We are grateful for the many, many donors, who have made possible the vision of a vibrant, influential, and entertaining theater. We are grateful for the many, many donors, who have made possible the vision of a vibrant, influential, and entertaining theater.

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This page is a list of donors to the Mosaic Theater Company, highlighting their support through various giving levels, from Visionary to Friend, and includes names and contributions in both text and images.

For more information, contact:

MAKE A DONATION

CLICK TO SEND A MESSAGE

susan@mosaictheater.org

Director of Development

Susan Smart
Join Mosaic Theater and your neighbors in the NE/SE DC community for special Friday evening pay-what-you-will performances throughout the season. Each performance features open captioning & an ASL interpreted post-show discussion with members of the cast and creative team.

NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT DATES

DEAR MAPEL
January 21st

PRIVATE
March 25th

MARYS SEACOLE
May 6th

IN HIS HANDS
June 24th

GET TICKETS