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**MOSAIC THEATER COMPANY OF DC TO STAGE PULITZER PRIZE-WINNER
JACKIE SIBBLIES DRURY'S *MARYS SEACOLE***

All-women, intergenerational ensemble piece has a limited run from May 4-May 29, 2022

WASHINGTON (April 13, 2022) — Mosaic Theater Company of DC is proud to announce it will stage the DC Premiere of *Marys Seacole* by Pulitzer Prize-winner **Jackie Sibblies Drury**, which the New York Times called “radiant” in its Off-Broadway debut. It will have a limited run from May 4 to May 29, 2022 at the Atlas Performing Arts Center.

Broadway star **Tina Fabrique** stars alongside local favorite **Kim Bey** under the direction of beloved local director **Eric Ruffin**. Tonya Beckman, Megan Graves, Amanda Morris Hunt, and Claire Schoonover round out the all women cast with Shayna O’Neill as production stage manager.

Hailed as “revelatory” by The New Yorker Magazine, *Marys Seacole* is based in part on the autobiography of Mary Seacole. Seacole was a British-Jamaican nurse and businesswoman who cared for wounded soldiers during the Crimean War. She was posthumously awarded the Jamaican Order of Merit in 1991 and was voted the greatest black Briton in 2004. Her autobiography, *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands* (1857), is one of the earliest autobiographies of an Afro-Caribbean woman.

Inspired by these true events, the 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. The set by Emily Lotz, properties by Deborah Thomas, costumes by Moyenda Kulemeka, and sound design by Crescent Haynes all draw heavily on Jamaican culture, particularly female Calypso artists and the spirituality of the community. Lights are designed by John D. Alexander and Mona Kasra provides projections design.

The play also centers the profound connection between mothers and daughters across all cultures and times. “This play is so relevant and necessary today as a celebration of women caretakers throughout the centuries, especially mothers,” Ruffin said. “I am honored to bring it to life with Mosaic and this wonderful cast and creative team.”

“Mosaic is beyond proud to bring Jackie Sibblies Drury’s work back to DC,” said Mosaic Artistic Director Reginald L. Douglas. “*Marys Seacole* is another example of her vivid imagination, remarkable theatricality, and unique ability to present history and Black culture with profound insight and magic. Eric’s beautiful vision for the production is centred in reverence for the many Black women who have provided care for their communities throughout history and today yet often go unnoticed and underappreciated. We dedicate this production to them.”

Performances begin on May 4, with VIP night on May 9. For more information about the production, visit <https://mosaictheater.org/marys-seacole>.

Jackie Sibblies Drury is a Brooklyn-based playwright. Her critically acclaimed play *Fairview* premiered in 2018 at Soho Rep. Other plays include *We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as South West Africa, From the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915*; *Really* and *Social Creatures*. Drury's plays have been presented by New York City Players and Abrons Arts Center, Soho Rep, Victory Gardens, Trinity Rep, Woolly Mammoth, Undermain Theatre, InterAct Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Company One, and the Bush Theatre in London, among others. Her work has been developed at the Bellagio Center, Sundance, The Ground Floor, Manhattan Theatre Club, Ars Nova, A.C.T., the Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab, NYTW, PRELUDE, The Bushwick Starr, and MacDowell. Drury is a NYTW Usual Suspect, a United States Artists Gracie Fellow, has received a Van Lier Fellowship at New Dramatists, a Jerome Fellowship at The Lark, a Windham-Campbell Literary Prize in Drama, and is a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize.

Eric Ruffin is the Artistic Director for Howard University's Department of Theatre Arts. His directing credits include *Fabulation* for Mosaic Theater, *Stirring the Waters* at The Reach (Kennedy Center), *Mountaintop* and *A Raisin in the Sun* for Lyric Rep, *Three Cheers for Grace* for Young Playwrights Theatre, *Sarafina!* at Kennedy Center, *Black Nativity* for Theater Alliance (3 Helen Hayes Awards including Best Musical) and *2-2 Tango* at Studio Theatre. He has also directed *Radio Golf*, *Hurt Village*, *Venus*, *Passing Strange*, and *Cut Flowers* at the Ira Aldridge Theatre. Ruffin holds a B.F.A. from Howard University and an MFA from Rutgers University. He is a Stage Directors and Choreographers Associate, a former: Drama League Directing Fellow, Folger Theatre Acting Fellow, NY Theatre Workshop Usual Suspect, and Princess Grace Grant recipient for dance. He was recently commissioned by Studio Theatre to develop the "Port Chicago 50" story and serves on Woolly Mammoth Theatre's Board.

Tina Fabrique has built a career as an actress and singer, respected by her peers and in demand by playwrights, producers, and directors alike. Equally at home in musicals on Broadway: *Gospel at Colonus*, *Bring In The Noise* *Bring In The Funk*, *Ragtime*, and others...or straight dramatic roles such as: *Trouble In Mind*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, and *The Glass Menagerie*. She was honored to have received the Kevin Kline Award and Florida's Carbonell Award for her performance as Ella Fitzgerald in *ELLA*, a show which has taken Tina to countless regional theaters and which was cited by *Variety* as the top-grossing regional show of this decade. Tina's television experience is just as varied; from the drama of *Blue Bloods* and *New Amsterdam*, to singing the original theme for *Reading Rainbow* and much in between. She is also pleased to have been chosen to sing the title song for the award-winning film *Mad Hot Ballroom*.

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ABOUT THE MOSAIC THEATER COMPANY OF DC

Mosaic Theater Company of DC produces bold, culturally diverse theater that illuminates critical issues, elevates fresh voices, and sparks connection among communities throughout our region and beyond. Under the leadership of the newly appointed Artistic Director Reginald L. Douglas and Managing Director Serge Seiden, 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.

www.mosaictheater.org

