

# DEAR MAPLE

by Palmayere 24

DIRECTED BY NATSU ONODA POWER



LIVE AT MOSAIC THEATER  
**FEB 2 - FEB 13**

## LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



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

*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.

## DEAR MAPEL

Psalmayene 24 ..... **Psalmayene 24\***  
 Musician & Various Roles..... **JabariDC**

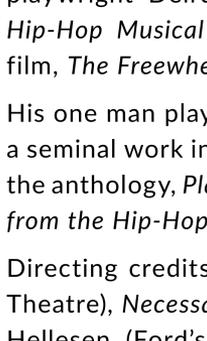
*Dear Mapel* is a professional production employing members of Actors' Equity Association (AEA), Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) and United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE. The video and/or audio recording of these performances by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices.

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



## BIOS

## CAST

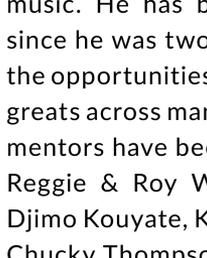


**Psalmayene 24 (Himself)** is an award-winning playwright, director, and actor. Psalm—as his colleagues call him—is currently The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Playwright in Residence at Mosaic Theater and a member of The Cabinet at Studio Theatre. Writing credits include *The Blackest Battle* (Theater Alliance), *Les Deux Noirs* (Mosaic Theater), *The Frederick Douglass Project*—co-written with Irish playwright Deirdre Kinahan (Solas Nua), *P.Nokio: A Hip-Hop Musical* (Imagination Stage), and the short film, *The Freewheelin' Insurgents* (Arena Stage).

His one man play, *Free Jujube Brown!*, is recognized as a seminal work in Hip-Hop Theatre and is published in the anthology, *Plays from the Boom-Box Galaxy: Theater from the Hip-Hop Generation* (TCG).

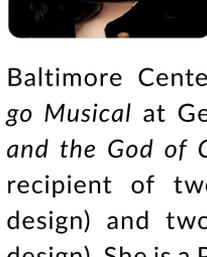
Directing credits include *Flow* by Will Power (Studio Theatre), *Necessary Sacrifices: A Radio Play* by Richard Hellesten (Ford's Theatre), *Pass Over* by Antoinette Nwandu (Studio Theatre), *Native Son* by Nambi E. Kelley (Mosaic Theater), and *Word Becomes Flesh*—recipient of five Helen Hayes Awards, including Outstanding Direction of a Play—by Marc Bamuthi Joseph (Theater Alliance).

As an actor, Psalm has appeared on HBO's critically acclaimed series *The Wire* and has been nominated for a Helen Hayes Award (Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical). He is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association. Love 2 Diana.



**JabariDC (Musician and Various Roles)** has also been a pioneering artist in a movement called, "Hip-Hop Theater" since 1997. He is a skilled percussionist in the West Africa/Latin Tradition and a prolific writer and performer of Hip-Hop music. He has been acting, drumming, and rapping since he was two years old and has been blessed with the opportunities to receive guidance from some of the greats across many fields of creative study. A few of his mentors have been Debbie Allen, Chadwick Boseman, Reggie & Roy Wooten, Mamady Keita, Grady Tate, Djimo Kouyate, KRS-One, Sonya Sanchez, Glen Turner, Chucky Thompson, Bill Summers, Leon Mobley, Rickie Byars Beckwith, Robert Nothern, Mamadi Nyasuma, Baba Barnett, and Marc Cary.

## CREATIVE TEAM



**Natsu Onoda Power (Director, Production Designer)** Favorite credits include *Thumbelina* at Imagination Stage; *The Lathe of Heaven* at Spooky Action Theater; *Alice in Wonderland* with National Players; *The White Snake* at Baltimore CenterStage; *Wind Me Up, Maria!: A Gogo Musical* at Georgetown University; and *Astro Boy and the God of Comics* at Studio Theatre. She is the recipient of two Elliot Norton Awards (directing, design) and two Helen Hayes Awards (adaptation, design). She is a Professor of Theater and Performance Studies at Georgetown University, and is the author of *God of Comics: Osamu Tezuka and the Creation of Post-World War II Manga* (The University Press of Mississippi, 2009).

**Alberto Segarra (Lighting Designer)** is a Washington DC-based lighting designer. Recent selected DC credits include *Acoustic Rooster* at The Kennedy Center; *The Thanksgiving Play* at Olney Theatre Center; *Quixote Nuevo* at Round House Theatre; *Good People* at Keegan Theatre; *Tender Age* at Studio Theatre; *El Perro del Hortelano* at GALA Theatre; *Earthrise* at The Kennedy Center; *Blood at the Root* at Theater Alliance (Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Lighting Design); *Satchmo at the Waldorf* at Mosaic Theater; and *An Act of God* at Signature Theatre. Regional credits include *1776* and *The Gift Horse* at New Repertory Theatre and *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* at Blue Barn Theatre. He is graduate of from the University of Maryland, College Park and a USA 829 member. Upcoming projects include: *The Three Musketeers* at Cleveland Playhouse; *Ceiling Sky* at Theatre Alliance; and *The Joy that Carries You* at Olney Theatre. [albertosegarra.com](http://albertosegarra.com)

**Kelly Colburn (Projections Designer)** is a local interdisciplinary artist working as a producer, director, designer, and deviser for live performance. She is the Artistic Lead for Theatre at Flying V as well as the Digital Producer for Theater Alliance. Recent Credits: *Struggle for Justice* Video Series (Dana Tai Soon Burgess), *The Quadrant Series* (Theater Alliance), *Pipeline* (Everyman), *Okinawa Field Trip* (Georgetown University), *Clowntime* (Baltimore Theatre Project), *The Blackest Battle* (Theater Alliance), *The Thanksgiving Play* (Olney), and *Jingle Journey* (Arts on the Horizon). She is a DCCA Fellowship Awardee, a recipient of a 2019 Helen Hayes Award for her design work on *Blood At The Root* with Theater Alliance, was a 2017-2018 NextLOOK Resident and a recipient of the 2018 Jim Henson Puppetry Grant. BFA NYU Tisch '11 | MFA UMD '18. [www.kellycolburn.com](http://www.kellycolburn.com)

**Danielle Preston (Costume Designer)** is a costume designer based in Washington DC. Recent theater credits include designs for the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Chicago Opera Theatre, Olney Theatre, Studio Theatre, Hangar Theatre, Theater J, Mosaic Theater Company of DC, Florida Repertory Theatre, Children's Theater of Charlotte, & Washington National Symphony. Preston has worked as an Assistant Costume Designer in NYC & DC at Playwrights Horizons, Kennedy Center, Arena Stage, Strathmore Center, & Williamstown Theatre Festival. She currently works at the Washington National Opera as the Costume Coordinator for the production *Written in Stone*. Professional fellowships include Kenan Costume Fellowship for the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts and A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute Fellowship in Costume Design. Preston holds an MFA in Costume Design from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Preston is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829.

**Nick "tha 1da" Hernandez (Sound Designer)** is a sample-based producer, DJ, and artist. He has produced original compositions for *Native Son* and *Les Deux Noirs* at Mosaic Theater, *Fences* at Ford's Theater, *Flow* at Studio Theatre, *Long Way Down* and *Darius & Twig* at The Kennedy Center, The Hip-Hop Children's Trilogy with playwright Psalmayene 24 at Imagination Stage, *Word Becomes Flesh* at Theater Alliance (Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding Production), and *Havana Hop* and *All The Way Live!* with sibling Paige Hernandez at Discovery Theater. Additionally, Nick has produced compositions and projects for Hot 97 FM, Red Bull Music, Arena Stage, Netflix, DC Public Library, Smithsonian Associates, and Words Beats & Life Inc. @nicktha1da

**Simone Baskerville (Stage Manager)** is a Production Manager, Equity Stage Manager, and Interdisciplinary Artist, residing in Washington, DC. A graduate of Howard University's Theatre Arts department, she holds her graduate degree in Interdisciplinary Arts - Performance from Columbia College Chicago. Simone is elated to be working with the Creatives and Cast of *Dear Mapel*. This work is rich, fresh, and honest... all the things she loves about art and art-making! Her regional stage management credits include *Native Son* (Mosaic); *Word Becomes Flesh* (HH Award - Theater Alliance); *Jacob Lawrence's: The Migration Tour* (Step Afrika!); DC Jazz Festival 2018 (Kennedy Center & The Wharf); DC Mayor Arts Awards 2019 (Lincoln Theater). Simone's Design & Production Management credits include Drumfolk - US Tour (Step Afrika!), Page to Stage Festival (2018) and Embassy of New Zealand (Kennedy Center Honors - 2018). Simone would like to thank God (Hallelu!), my mother, (Love you More!), and Darius L. (for enriching my life, and loving me the way you do!). Live the Dream!

**Jocelyn Clarke (Dramaturg)** is a dramaturg for stage and screen. He is Senior Dramaturg at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. He was Theatre Advisor to the Arts Council of Ireland for ten years, and Literary Manager of the Abbey, Ireland's national theatre. He is an Associate Artist with Theatre Mitu and with The Civilians. As a dramaturg, Clarke has worked with writers such as Katori Hall, Taylor Mac, Lydia Diamond, Abhishek Majumdar, Eduardo Machado, Charles Randolph Wright, Lisa Kron, Seamus Heaney, Tazewell Thompson, Craig Lucas, Carl Hancock Rux, Kenneth Lin, Mary Kathryn Nagle, Tanya Saracho, Aaron Posner, and Karen Zacarias. He was a script editor on several Irish films, including *Young Offenders*, and was executive story editor on all three seasons of the BBC/RTE TV series *Young Offenders*. He is a writer and producer on the second season of *P-Valley*, Katori Hall's acclaimed TV series for Starz. His new adaptation of Elizabeth Swados' musical *Beautiful Lady* will be directed by Anne Bogart at La Mama Theatre in New York in May 2022.

Actors' Equity Association (AEA) was founded in 1913 as the first of the American actor unions. Equity's mission is to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States. Equity members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession, upholding the highest artistic standards. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans for its members. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. For more information, visit [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org).

## 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 SIBBLIES 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*

## THE MUSIC MEN



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.

### 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>

# 21 | 22

Season at Mosaic Theater

**STILL TO COME THIS SEASON AT MOSAIC...**



## 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!**

# MOSAIC'S MISSION

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 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.

## 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.

## STAFF & BOARD

### MOSAIC STAFF

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**Eli Bradley**

*Assistant to the Director*

**Melissa Carter**

*Assistant Production Designer-Props*

**Jarrold Digiorgi**

*Technical Direction & Master Carpenter*

**Niell DuVal**

*"The Desk"*

**Kaylin Luces**

*Assistant Stage Manager*

**Ariana McKenzie**

*Captions/Projections Operator*

**Kristen Roth**

*Lighting Programmer*

**Cassandra Saulski**

*Master Electrician*

**Ben Sullivan**

*Assistant Production Designer-Set*

**Dylan Uremovich**

*Assistant Projections Designer & Engineer*

### A.I.R. COHORT

*(Mosaic's current class of apprentices & interns)*

**Eli Bradley**

*Company Apprentice*

**Fargo Tbakhi**

*Literary Apprentice*

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks to Georgetown University Department of Theater, Niell DuVal, and Imagination Stage. Promotional photography by Chris Banks.

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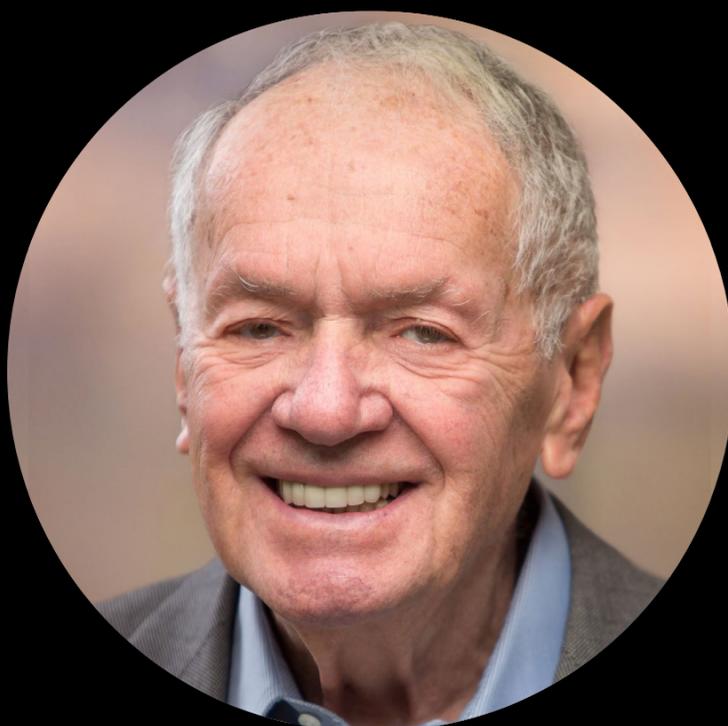
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# IN MEMORY OF MARVIN F. WEISSBERG



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

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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.

# DONORS

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Thank you to our many loyal donors, who have made it possible for Mosaic Theater Company to produce independent, intercultural, and entertaining theater. We are grateful for the many individuals, foundations, government agencies, and organizations who made generous contributions between July 1, 2020 and December 14, 2021, listed below. We regret any unintentional errors or omissions to this list. Please contact the Development Department at [devo@mosaictheater.org](mailto:devo@mosaictheater.org) or 202.738.9134 with corrections.

Thank you for being a part of our mosaic.

### VISIONARY

Co-Founder Dan Logan, Gloria Logan and The Revada Foundation  
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  
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Alice Boyd  
Sandra Buratti  
Jeanne T. Cohn and Mark Wolfe  
Lt. Col & Mrs. Carl Kime  
Juliana Crawford  
Robert Croog  
Kevin Cuddy  
Linda Davis  
Rina & Avi Dechter  
Dorothy Denny & Gully Stanford  
Robert Delaney & Klemens Affandy  
Susan Ditto  
Michael Dompas & Howard Griffin  
Peter Eveleth  
Charles & Krayna Feinberg  
Carole Feld & David Levy  
Tracy Fisher  
Lawrence Franks & Ellen Berelson  
Jared Garelick & Ellen Kramarow  
Jay Gilliam & Kevin Sweitzer  
Samantha Gitomer & Samantha Jacoby  
Nancy Goff  
Ruth B. Gramlich  
Eugenia Grohman  
Pallavi Guniganti  
Jack E. Hairston Jr.  
John T. Hannon  
Shaun Hardy & Allen

Wyrick  
Laura Heinrich  
Audrey Hipkns  
Donna Hobson  
Rosemary B. Hoffmann  
Stephanie Holmes-Scott  
Eric Hoy  
Debbie M. Jackson  
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Caleen S. Jennings  
Tori Key  
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For more information, contact:

**Susan Smart**

Director of Development

[susan@mosaictheater.org](mailto:susan@mosaictheater.org)



# NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHTS

PAY-WHAT-YOU-WILL PERFORMANCES  
FOR THE H STREET NEIGHBORHOOD

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