

# MONUMENTAL Travesties

BY PSALMAYENE 24
DIRECTED BY REGINALD L. DOUGLAS

# 23 24 **SEASON OCT 26-NOV 19,** 2023 BY DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU **DIRECTED BY STORI AYERS MAR 28-**APR 21, BY RHIANA YAZZIE DIRECTED BY KEN-MATT MARTIN WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY BRIAN QUIJADA AND NYGEL D. ROBINSON DIRECTED BY DAVID MENDIZÁBAL

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## WELCOME FROM OUR

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Welcome to the 2023-24 season and the world premiere of Monumental Travesties. New plays are the bedrock of my artistic life, and I am so excited to be directing this latest work by one of our city's most accomplished talents, Psalmayene 24. Psalm has been Mosaic's Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Playwright-in-Residence since 2020 and has written, directed, and acted in multiple projects at Mosaic over the years, including 2022's Helen Hayes Awardnominated memoir play Dear Mapel. His work is renowned, but it is his spirit that is truly remarkable. Psalm is a kind, thoughtful, and generous collaborator with a contagious spirit of joy and camaraderie. It has been a great gift to be in the rehearsal room with him this summer, and I can't wait for you to experience the fruits of our labor.

At the first rehearsal for every Mosaic production, I ask the artists, staff, Board members, Reflections Series partners, and Partners Circle donors in attendance to answer a question inspired by the play. For Monumental Travesties, the question was "name something or someplace that defines DC for you and why." My answer was the Georgetown waterfront at night and the stunning view of the lit-up Kennedy Center shining over the Potomac—a nod to my alma mater, love of being on the water, and dedication to a life in the arts. What would your answer be? Email me at Reg@mosaictheater.org to let me know your response and what you think about this production. I'd love to hear from you!

And I'd love to see you back at Mosaic this year. This season includes two more world premiere productions—Rhiana Yazzie's epic new play *Nancy* and the form-breaking new musical *Mexodus*. Next up in November is the Mosaic debut of MacArthur "Genius" grant recipient Dominique Morisseau—*Confederates* directed by DC native Stori Ayers. Like *Monumental Travesties*, *Confederates* feels uniquely Mosaic to me in that it allows imagination and inquiry to come together in a moving investigation into our shared history. I hope that these plays, and all our work this season, make you think, make you laugh, lead you to ask questions of yourself and your neighbor, and make you feel a bit prouder to call this city home.

Thank you for supporting and believing in Mosaic Theater. Enjoy the show!

Reginald L. DouglasArtistic Director

## MOSAIC THEATER COMPANY OF DC PRESENTS

## Monumental Travesties

By **Psalmayene 24**Directed **Reginald L. Douglas**•

Scenic Designer

Andrew R. Cohen++

Lighting Designer **Alberto Segarra++** 

Costume Designer

Moyenda Kulemeka++

Sound Designer
Nick "tha Ida" Hernandez

Props Designer **Deb Thomas** 

Fight and Intimacy Director

Sierra Young

Movement Consultant **Sandra L. Holloway** 

Stage Manager
Claire Fogle\*

Casting Director and Dramaturg **Chelsea Radigan** 

- <sup>o</sup> Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society
- \* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.
- ++ Member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE.

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







**MONUMENTAL TRAVESTIES IS SPONSORED BY** Mosaic Partners Circle **Believers** Jordan Lloyd Bookey & Felix Brandon Lloyd and the Bookey Family Foundation, **Activists** Bill Tompkins & Dana Brewington, **Advocates** Mimi Conway & Dennis Houlihan, David Grosso & Serra Sippel, Jean & David Grier, Frank Guzzetta & Paul Manville, Sari Hornstein, Norbert Hornstein & Amy Weinberg, and Drs. Susan & Daniel Mareck.

MOSAIC THEATER'S 23-24 SEASON IS SPONSORED BY Co-Founder Dan Logan & the Revada Foundation of the Logan Family of Virginia, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Humanities DC, Eugene M. Lang Foundation, Share Fund, Shubert Foundation, the Vradenburg Foundation, Mosaic Partners Circle Visionaries David O. & Joan P. Maxwell, the Steinglass Family, Champions Deborah Carliner & Robert Remes, and Cathy & Bob Solomon.















## MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT

Psalmayene 24 is an award-winning actor, director, playwright and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Playwright in Residence at Mosaic Theater from 2020-2026. His playwriting credits include Dear Mapel and Les Deux Noirs at Mosaic Theater Company, Free Jujube Brown! at The African Continuum Theatre Company, and Zomo the Rabbit: A Hip-Hop Creation Myth at Imagination Stage. Directing credits include Native Son at Mosaic Theater, Flow and Pass Over at Studio Theatre, Necessary Sacrifices: A Radio Play at Ford's Theatre, Word Becomes Flesh at Theater Alliance. Cinderella: The Remix at Imagination Stage, and Not Enuf Lifetimes at The Welders. His play, Les Deux Noirs, is published by TRW Plays. Acting credits include Ruined at Arena Stage, Dear Mapel at Mosaic Theater, and HBO's The Wire. Psalm, as his colleagues call him, is the writer/director of the short film The Freewheelin' Insurgents, presented by Arena Stage. He is the recipient of a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Direction of a Play and has received the Imagination Award from Imagination Stage. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America, the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, and Actors' Equity Association. @psalmayene24



"At its core, this play is about race, remembering, and reconciliation. In this regard, one can say that America is about the same three things. One of my goals for this play is for it to spark a dialogue about the Emancipation Memorial and what should be done to responsibly recontextualize this monument for the public. I hope people laugh a lot during this play—after all it is a comedy. And I hope, after watching this play, people see a little bit more light in the world."

Monumental Travesties
 Playwright Psalmayene 24

Photo by Chris Banks.

# Journey to the Production

Three Years in the Making

Mosaic Theater is dedicated to providing a platform for emerging and established playwrights to develop new work in a supportive and artistically rigorous environment.



TOP: The Mosaic staff gathers to hear the first 15 pages during an August 2021 retreat at A Frame of Mind Cabin. PICTURED: Chelsea Radigan, Fargo Tbakhi, Psalmayene 24, and Dina Soltan. Photo by Iwan Bagus.

BOTTOM: Community members are given a sneak peek of the first draft at the Northeast Neighborhood Library in August 2022. PICTURED: Jonathan Feuer. Photo by Jhon Ochoa.





ABOVE: The creative team workshops the first full draft during a weeklong Local Theatre Residency at The Kennedy Center's REACH in June 2023. Photo by Sabrina Garland-Sash.

BELOW: First Rehearsal at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library with cast, creative team, and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton in August 2023. Photo by Chris Banks.





## **CAST**

Louis E. Davis\* Chance

Jonathan Feuer\* Adam

Renee Elizabeth Wilson\* Brenda

Monumental Travesties runs approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

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



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.

## CAST



Louis E. Davis (Chance) is thrilled to be working on this production. Previous credits include: Bars and Measures (Bilal) and Charm (Donnie) at Mosaic Theater Company; Dance Nation (Luke) at Olney Theatre Center; Topdog/Underdog (Booth; 2020 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Lead Performer in a Play – Helen) at WSC Avant Bard; Word Becomes Flesh (Ensemble) and Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea (Robby) at Theater Alliance; The Merry Wives of Windsor (Host) and The Second Shepherd's Play (Ensemble) at Folger Theatre; The Frederick Douglass Project (Ensemble) at Solas Nua; and The Freshest Snow Whyte (Pop Lock) at Imagination Stage. TV credits: We Own This City (HBO). @thekid\_kinglou



Jonathan Feuer (Adam) returns to Mosaic Theater Company after appearing in the final two weeks of *Charm* in 2017. He is elated to be working with Psalmayene 24 again after collaborating on several projects, including *The Freshest Snow Whyte* at Imagination Stage. Other local credits include Arena Stage, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Signature Theatre, Studio Theatre, Rep Stage, Theater J, The Kennedy Center TYA, Solas Nua, Spooky Action Theater, Prologue Theatre, The Hub Theatre, Forum Theatre, The Keegan Theatre, Adventure Theatre-MTC, and Quotidian Theatre Company. Jonathan is an MFA graduate of the Academy for Classical Acting at The George Washington University.



Renee Elizabeth Wilson (Brenda) is beyond thrilled to be back in her hometown performing with Mosaic Theater Company in Monumental Travesties. Previous Mosaic Theater credits include Native Son and Milk Like Sugar. Other DC credits include Intimate Apparel at Theater J; Radio Golf and Nollywood Dreams (U/S) at Round House Theatre; Moon Man Walk at Constellation Theatre Company; The Hula Hoopin Queen at Imagination Stage; Ain't No Mo' (U/S) at Woolly Mammoth Theatre; and Skeleton Crew (U/S) at Studio Theatre. Renee is an American actress and a NASM certified personal trainer. She is a graduate of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts and has a BFA in Drama from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. (@actpoetic88

## CREATIVE TEAM

For Director Reginald L. Douglas's bio, see page 13.

Andrew R. Cohen's (Scenic Designer; he/him) select DC credits include: The Till Trilogy and Eureka Day at Mosaic Theater Company; Murder Ballad at Studio Theatre (Helen Hayes Award Nomination for Outstanding Set Design); King John at Folger Theatre; The Crucible at Olney Theatre Center; The Wanderers at Theater J; Earthrise at The Kennedy Center TYA; Mr. Popper's Penguins at Imagination Stage. Regional credits include: Flyin' West at Everyman Theatre; Red Riding Hood at Arden Theatre Company; It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play at Studio Tenn; The Piano Lesson at Le Petit Theatre. Andrew received his MFA in Scenic Design from the University of Maryland and is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829.

Alberto Segarra's (Lighting Designer; he/him) recent DC credits include: Nate the Great at Imagination Stage; The Last Match at 1st Stage; Passing Strange at Signature Theatre; and Two Jews Walk into a War... at Theater J. Other DC credits include: The Till Trilogy at Mosaic Theater; The Joy That Carries You (Helen Hayes nomination) at Olney Theatre Center; Acoustic Rooster's Barnyard Boogie: Starring Indigo Blume and Beastgirl at The Kennedy Center TYA; Blood at the Root (Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Lighting Design) at Theater Alliance. Regional credits include: The Great Leap at Hangar Theatre Company/Portland Stage; The Three Musketeers at Cleveland Play House; 1776 at New Repertory Theatre. He holds an MFA in lighting design from the University of Maryland and is a USA 829 member. albertosegarra.com.

Moyenda Kulemeka's (Costume Designer; she/her) previous Mosaic credits include: In His Hands, Bars and Measures, Marys Seacole, and Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine. Recent credits include Radio Golf at Round House Theatre; Good Bones and John Proctor is the Villain at Studio Theatre; Tiny Beautiful Things at Baltimore Center Stage; Selling Kabul, Daphne's Dive, and Detroit '67 at Signature Theatre; Jump at Everyman Theatre; Gloria: A Life and Intimate Apparel at Theater J; Mlima's Tale and The Brothers Size at 1st Stage; La Tía Julia Y El Escribidor, Exquisita Agonía, and En el Tiempo de las Mariposas at GALA Hispanic Theatre. Moyenda holds a B.A. from the University of Maryland and is a member of United Scenic Artists. Local 829. IATSE.

**Nick "tha Ida" Hernandez**'s (Sound Designer) DC Theater credits include: *Our Verse in Time to Come* at Folger Theatre; *The Day You Begin* and *Long Way Down* at The Kennedy

Center; Nollywood Dreams at Round House Theatre; Fences at Ford's Theatre; Native Son & Les Deux Noirs at Mosaic Theater; Word Becomes Flesh at Theater Alliance (Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding Production); Óyeme, the beautiful and Hip-Hop Children's Trilogy at Imagination Stage; Luchadora! at Adventure Theater; and Stomping Grounds at the Glimmerglass Festival. Additional credits include music production for Hot 97 FM, Netflix, Smithsonian Associates, Words Beats & Life Inc., and DC Public Libraries. @nickthalda

**Deb Thomas**'s (Props Designer) work for Mosaic Theater Company includes one in two. Unseen. The Till Trilogy. Marys Seacole, Birds of North America, Eureka Day, and Milk Like Sugar. She was the Props Director at Studio Theatre from 2009 to 2019, where she did set design for Terminus, assistant set design for Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, and props design for Clyde's, Heroes of The Fourth Turning, John Proctor is The Villain, Pass Over, Fun Home, Love! Valor! Compassion!, Sylvia, Suburbia, and Slavs! Her work for Theater J includes The Tale of The Allergist's Wife and Freud's Last Session. In 2022, she was the Production Designer for NIST's historical documentary. AD-X2; sculptor and sculpture consultant for TLC's DC Cupcakes; and did the original set design for Discovery Channel's Puppy Bowl; Washington Bureau set design for TV Tokyo; and the Natty G pilot for National Geographic. In addition to working for all national networks, her work includes production design for PBS American Experience Dolley Madison, art direction for Alexander Hamilton, and set and props design for Discovery Channel's Jamestown: Against All Odds.

Sierra Young (Fight and Intimacy Director, she/her) is a multihyphenate artist in the DC/Baltimore area. She is an active member of the Society of American Fight Directors, Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, and the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Recent DC choreography credits include one in two. Unseen, Bars and Measures, The Till Trilogy. Marys Seacole, and Birds of North America at Mosaic Theater Company: Shout Sister Shout! at Ford's Theatre: Sweat at Keegan Theatre; Spring Awakening at Monumental Theatre Company; Monsters of the American Cinema, The Cake, and World Builders at Prologue Theatre; King Lear and Red Velvet at Shakespeare Theatre Company; Playboy of the Western World at Solas Nua; Ain't No Mo' at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company. Recent regional choreography credits include Ain't No Mo' at Baltimore Center Stage; The Joy That Carries You and A.D. 16 at Olney Theatre Center. Upcoming projects include: POTUS at Arena Stage and Confederates at Mosaic Theater Company, sierrayoung.org.



# HIGH SCHOOL PLAYWRITING CONTEST: OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

LEARN MORE: "I'd be lying if I said this wasn't the best holiday gift that I received!"—2022 Contest Winner, Moyo Ifafore



Open to 9th- through 12th- grade students in the Washington, DC metro area, the contest offers hands-on mentorship to young theater-makers and culminates in a public reading of the winning submissions at a branch of the DC Public Library, led by a director and working actors.

The High School Playwriting Contest is sponsored by Mosaic Partners Circle **Advocate**Leonade Jones. Education and Engagement programs are sponsored by Mosaic Partners
Circle **Believers** Frank Guzzetta & Paul Manville and **Advocates** Bobbie & Thomas Gottschalk.



## **CREATIVE TEAM (CONTINUED)**

Claire Fogle (Stage Manager; she/her) is thrilled to be returning to Mosaic Theater Company, where she previously worked on *Unseen, Bars and Measures, The Till Trilogy,* and *Marys Seacole.* Claire was born and raised a military brat, and has enjoyed traveling and working all over the globe, including credits as a stage and events manager in LA, Orlando, Chicago, and the Berkshires. Previous credits in the DC area include the 2022 Voices of Now Festival and Devex World at Arena Stage, *Celtic Crossings* with the Washington Revels, *Flight* at Studio Theatre, the 2022 DC Dance Festival at Dance Place, and *Cinderella* and *Shhhakespeare Revue* at Synetic Theater. Other recent work includes *The Tempest* at Antaeus Theatre Company in LA. Claire holds a BFA in Stage Management from the University of Central Florida.

## For This Production

Assistant Stage Manager

**Grace Carter** 

Light Board Programmer and Lead Electrician

Cassandra Saulski

Light & Sound Board Operator **Asia Christian**  Sound Engineer lan Vespermann

Electricians

Asia Christian, Sam Hiuk, Devin Kinch, Dazinsky Muscadin

Carpenters
Carlos Campbell,
Jarrod DiGiorgi,
Vika Hearne,
Issac De Marchi

Dialect Coach

Jen Rabbitt Ring

Scenic Charge

Jen Shillingburg

Open Captioning Prep & Operator **Amari Chambers** 

## Special Thanks

Iwan Bagus @AFrameofMindCabin, Ashara Crutchfield, JaBen Early, Angelisa Gillyard, Rebecca Miller, The Local Theater Residency Program at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, David Quick, Kacie Pimentel, and Michael Singer & James Smith.

Mosaic Theater is a member of DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative, and its Intergenerational Matinee program is offered and supported in partnership with both organizations.

## **Land Acknowledgement**

The Atlas Performing Arts Center stands on the traditional land of the Nacotchtank people and neighbors the ancestral lands of the Piscataway and Pamunkey peoples. This acknowledgment is in tribute to those peoples, past and present.

## MOSAIC LEADERSHIP



Artistic Director **Reginald L. Douglas** (Director, he/him) is dedicated to creating new work and supporting new voices. He has directed at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, TheaterWorks Hartford, Contemporary American Theater Festival, Everyman Theatre, Weston Theater Company, La Jolla Playhouse, Audible, Bard at the Gate, Profile Theatre, Playwrights Realm, The Kennedy Center, Pittsburgh CLO, Arizona Theatre Company, Barrington Stage, Cape Cod Theatre Project, Negro Ensemble Company, TheatreSquared, Playwrights' Center, McCarter Theatre Center, Florida Rep. The Lark, New York Theatre Workshop, City Theatre (where he served as Artistic Producer), Studio Theatre (where he served as Associate Artistic Director), and many other national companies. Reginald has developed and directed work by nationally recognized writers including Dominique Morisseau, Suzan-Lori Parks, Cori Thomas, Angelica Chéri, Lynn Nottage, Nikkole Salter, Dael Orlandersmith. Kemp Powers, Jen Silverman, Ngozi Anyanwu, R. Eric Thomas, Brian Quijada, Matt Schatz, Amy Evans, Zakiyyah Alexander, Imani Uzuri, Dave Harris, Francisca Da Silveira, Khalil Kain. Chisa Hutchinson, Tearrance Chisholm, Josh Wilder, Larry Powell, Kareem Fahmy, Harrison David Rivers, Idris Goodwin, and Donia R. Love. A member of the Board of Directors of Theatre Washington and of the National New Play Network. Reginald received the National Theatre Conference's Emerging Professional Award in 2020.



Managing Director **Serge Seiden** (he/him) helped found Mosaic Theater Company in 2015 and has held leadership positions with the company since then. From 1990 to 2015, Serge held many positions at Studio Theatre, including Stage Manager, Literary Manager, and Producing Director. Serge was a key player in Studio's 1996 and 2004 expansions—developments crucial to the reemergence of 14th Street NW as a DC cultural hub. He is also an acting teacher and director. For Mosaic, he most recently directed Birds of North America. Other Mosaic credits include Eureka Day, Ulysses on Bottles, and Hooded, or Being Black for Dummies, which received the Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding Original New Play, In 2013, Serge received the Helen Haves Award for Outstanding Director/Resident Musical for Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris... at MetroStage. His production of Bad Jews at Studio Theatre was nominated for four 2015 Helen Hayes Awards, including Outstanding Director. Serge also directed Studio's acclaimed *The Apple Family Cycle*. More directing credits include Everett Quinton's A Tale of Two Cities at Synetic Theater, Freud's Last Session at Theater J, and Clifford Odets' Awake and Sing! at Olney Theatre Center. Serge has been a member of the faculty at Studio Acting Conservatory for 28 years.

## MEET MOSAIC

## Staff

Reginald L. Douglas, Artistic Director Serge Seiden, Managing Director

Chris Banks, Director of Production Sabrina Garland-Sash, Marketing Manager Psalmayene 24, Andrew W. Mellon Playwright in Residence

Nadir Bey, Technical Director Lina Khawaldah, Business & Operations Manager

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Mosaic Theater's Partners Circle is a distinguished group of individuals and organizations who make it possible for us to amplify the voices of today, uplift the creative leaders of tomorrow, and create intercultural and entertaining productions.

In exchange for a charitable gift of \$1,000 or more, you'll enjoy benefits such as premier recognition and invitations to exclusive events.

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Or email dina@mosaictheater.org



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## Visionarv \$50,000 +

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We regret any unintentional errors or omission to this list. Please contact the Development Department at

dina@mosaictheater.org

with corrections.

## THE REFLECTION SERIES

Through citywide, cross-disciplinary partnerships, Mosaic produces concerts, readings, panels, and symposiums to spark meaningful reflection and compelling conversations around the themes of our plays. Started in conjunction with *The Till Trilogy*, this year Mosaic expands the Reflection Series to year-round programming!



September 6, 2023 | 6PM

## **Memorializing Living History**

Location: Edlavitch DC Jewish Community Center



September 9, 2023 | 10:30AM

## The Monument: History, Controversy, Strategy

Location: Emancipation Memorial in Lincoln Park

September 12, 2023 | 6PM

# Race, Memory, Monuments, and Forgetting

Location: Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital





September 14, 2023

Post-Show Talkback with Reginald L. Douglas, Psalmayene 24, DC History Center, and Ford's Theatre

September 24, 2023

Post-Show Talkback with the Artists of Monumental Travesties





**THE REFLECTION SERIES IS SPONSORED BY** CrossCurrents Foundation, Mosaic Partners Circle **Believers** Leslie Scallet Lieberman & Maury Lieberman and **Activists** Meg & John Hauge



## "A work about racism that is truly funny." -The New York Times



Sara is an enslaved rebel turned Union spy. Sandra is a tenured professor at a modern-day university. Despite living 160 years apart, their parallel struggles unite them across time. Celebrated American playwright, MacArthur Fellow, and two-time Tony Award nominee Dominique Morisseau (Ain't Too Proud, Skeleton Crew) forges into brand new modes of storytelling in this breathtakingly fierce examination of history, race, and the women who stand on the frontlines of freedom, no matter the cost.



Dominique Morisseau PLAYWRIGHT



Stori Ayers DIRECTOR

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Nikkole Salter Obie Award and Helen Hayes Award Winner as SANDRA