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GREATER D.C.-AREA THEATERS ANNOUNCE THE RETURN OF THE WOMEN’S VOICES THEATER FESTIVAL

Festival Takes Place January – February 2018

In Order to Further Showcase Theater Written by Women, The Second Festival Expands to Include 2nd and 3rd Productions in Addition to World-Premiere Works

Seven Originating Theaters Announce Projects and Playwrights

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Washington, D.C. – The seven originating theaters of the Women’s Voices Theater Festival – Arena Stage, Ford’s Theatre, Round House Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Signature Theatre, Studio Theatre and Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company – are proud to announce preliminary details for the second installment of the Women’s Voices Theater Festival, January 15 – February 15, 2018. Twenty-eight professional theater companies of all sizes from the region will join together to produce new works by female and female-identifying artists. In addition to presenting world-premiere productions, the 2018 Festival will expand to include second and third productions of works by female playwrights, nation-wide Festival-related activities and a variety of events for theater-makers and theater-lovers from across the country.

First launched in the fall of 2015, the Festival was created to highlight the scope of new plays written by female playwrights and the range of professional theater being produced in and around the nation’s capital.

In a joint statement the originating Artistic Directors shared the following:

“The 2015 Women’s Voices Theater Festival ignited a much-needed conversation within our theatrical community. The success of the first Festival inspired us to continue this important effort and to broaden how we highlight female playwrights. By presenting world premiers, as well as plays in their second and third productions, we hope this new undertaking will again call attention to the gender disparity on our stages and continue to introduce our audiences to exciting new female voices.”

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Greater D.C.-area theaters announce return of the Women's Voices Theater Festival

For developing information about participating theaters, artists and tickets visit: 
[womensvoicestheaterfestival.org]

The Artistic Directors of the seven originating theaters – Molly Smith (Arena Stage), Paul R. Tetreault (Ford’s Theatre), Ryan Rilette (Round House Theatre), Michael Kahn (Shakespeare Theatre Company), Eric Schaeffer (Signature Theatre), David Muse (Studio Theatre) and Howard Shalwitz (Woolly Mammoth) — created the Festival in 2015 as a response to the under-representation of female voices in the American theater. Heralded as “inspired” by The Washington Post and “an energizing showcase” by The New York Times, the Women’s Voices Theater Festival furthered the national dialogue about gender parity in the theater and displayed the range of professional theater being produced throughout the nation’s capital region with more than 50 world-premiere plays in the area from September-October 2015.

Nan Barnett of Flanagan Theater Projects will again serve as the Festival’s Coordinating Producer, this time with the support of theatreWashington, led by President Amy Austin, the service organization that represents and supports the region’s diverse theater community.

**Originating Theater Company 2018 Productions**

**Arena Stage**  
*Sovereignty* by Mary Kathryn Nagle  
World Premiere  
Directed by Molly Smith  
January 12-February 18, 2018

**Ford’s Theatre**  
*Jefferson’s Garden* by Timberlake Wertenbaker  
American Premiere  
Directed by Nataki Garrett  
January 19-February 11, 2018

**Round House Theatre**  
*Handbagged* by Moira Buffini  
American Premiere  
Directed by Indhu Rubasingham  
January 31-February 25, 2018

**Shakespeare Theatre Company**  
*Noura* by Heather Raffo  
World Premiere  
Directed by Joanna Settle  
February 6-March 18, 2018

**Signature Theatre**  
*4,380 Nights* by Annalisa Dias  
World Premiere  
Directed by Kathleen Akerley  
January 16-February 18, 2018

—continued—
Page 3—Greater D.C.-area theaters announce return of the Women’s Voices Theater Festival

Studio Theatre  
*The Wolves* by Sarah DeLappe  
Regional Premiere  
Directed by Marti Lyons  
Dates TBA

Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company  
*Familiar* by Danai Gurira  
Regional Premiere  
Directed by Adam Immerwahr  
February 5-March 4, 2018

Below are the region’s theater companies that are also currently planning to participate in the 2018 Festival.

**Participating Theater Companies, as of March 3, 2017**

- Alliance for New Music-Theatre  
- Ally Theatre Company  
- Arena Stage  
- Baltimore Center Stage  
- Brave Spirits Theatre  
- Convergence Theatre  
- dog & pony dc  
- Folger Theatre  
- Ford's Theatre  
- Forum Theatre  
- Guillotine Theatre  
- Imagination Stage  
- The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
- MetroStage  
- Mosaic Theater Company  
- Nu Sass Productions  
- Olney Theatre Center  
- Rainbow Theatre Project  
- Rep Stage  
- Round House Theatre  
- Shakespeare Theatre Company  
- Signature Theatre  
- Smithsonian Discovery Theater  
- Spooky Action Theater  
- Studio Theatre  
- Taffety Punk Theatre Company  
- Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company  
- WSC Avant Bard

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Page 4—Greater D.C.-area theaters announce return of the Women’s Voices Theater Festival

The Women’s Voices Theater Festival is grateful for the renewed support of lead donors Heidi and Mitch Dupler, and hope that their generosity spurs new and renewed support of individuals and foundations across the national capital region.

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Connect with us on Twitter @WomensVoicesDC, use #WomensVoicesDC