

FY20

Annual Report



MOSAIC THEATER COMPANY of DC

Dear Friends

Thank you for your generous and steadfast support! We're thrilled to share our FY20 Annual Report with you and hope you take this opportunity to enjoy photos from and facts about Mosaic's memorable 5th Season which included *Fabulation*, *Theory*, *Eureka Day*, and *Pilgrims Musa and Sheri in the New World*. Two World Premiere productions, *Inherit the Windbag* and *The Till Trilogy* were in rehearsal when the pandemic shut down in-person performances.

New Play Development activities included a reading of *For My Silent Sisters* by Tara Meddaugh, a Mosaic on the Move presentation in an ongoing partnership with the DC Public Library. Staged readings of the plays *Bereaved* by Joshua Sobol and *I Was There* by Motti Lerner represented new work from the Middle East.

To invest in Mosaic's commitment to education and public programming, the Company created a new full time staff position, Director of Education and Outreach. This position oversees Apprentice and Internship programs to promote future theater makers from diverse backgrounds, free weekday matinees for seniors and students, and public programming to engage all patrons before and after performances.

Due to the pandemic, public programming pivoted from in person to online events. Fourteen Mosaic Alive Creative Conversations, Peace Cafes, and Book Club discussions were held between April and June 2020 including the [Encountering Emmett Series](#) with the Director of the Smithsonian Institution, Lonnie G. Bunch III.

The FY20 audited financial statements accessible [here](#) tell the story of a fiscal year upended by the pandemic. Half the Season was postponed and as a result of lost ticket revenue from those four productions, earned revenue fell short of its annual goal. However, these losses were offset by reductions in production expenses and strong contributed revenue.

Our cash position was bolstered by significant grants from The Roy Cockrum Foundation, the Reva and David Logan Foundation, the Revada Foundation and the Andrew W Mellon Foundation. Cash and pledges from these organizations as well as pandemic-related support from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities had a positive impact on cash in spite of the shutdown.

Inherit the Windbag, underwritten by the Vradenburg New Play Commission, was recorded safely from the actors' homes during lockdown and edited using the latest technology. It [streams](#) through June 2021. When it is safe to do so, the Company will resume in person production of *The Till Trilogy*, with extraordinary support from The Roy Cockrum Foundation.

Mosaic's mission, unique among area theaters, has never been more relevant and our growth is a direct result of your support for which we are eternally grateful. We look forward to seeing you at the theater when it is safe again!

Sincerely,



Bill Tompkins
Board President



Cathy Solomon
Treasurer



Serge Seiden
Managing Director and Producer

FABULATION

BY LYNN NOTTAGE
DIRECTED BY ERIC RUFFIN



...combines hilarity with
heartfelt honesty...

DC THEATRE SCENE

LYNN NOTTAGE



ERIC RUFFIN



A satirical tale about the folly of outrunning where we come from and the challenges of returning home, *Fabulation* or, *The Re-Education of Undine* starred “force-of-nature” Felicia Curry (*The Washington Post*).

Photo: *Fabulation* ensemble, by Christopher Banks.

EDUCATION

Everyone should be able to experience high quality, socially relevant theater. Subsidized tickets for seniors and students at matinees create intergenerational opportunities for entertainment and education. Mosaic’s paid year-long Apprentice and semester-long Internship programs provide on the job training and experiential learning opportunities with a special focus on BIPOC students.



THEORY

BY NORMAN YEUNG
DIRECTED BY VICTORIA MURRAY BAATIN



...an invigorating drama
of critical ideas...

DC METRO THEATER ARTS

VICTORIA MURRAY BAATIN



NORMAN YEUNG



The limits of free speech in academia are tested in this show about a high-stakes game of cat and mouse from one of Canada's most exciting new writers.

Photo: Andrea Harris Smith and Musa Gurnis, by Christopher Banks.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

In FY20, Public Programming pivoted to streamed events including the Encountering Emmett Series featuring Lonnie G. Bunch III, 14th Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution (*pictured right*). Mosaic offered free online playwriting workshops and a playwriting contest for public and charter high school students in DC and Prince George's County. In person productions featured pre- and post-show discussions; our collaboration with DC Public Library (Mosaic on the Move) brought public programming and play readings to libraries across the City.



EUREKA DAY

BY JONATHAN SPECTOR
DIRECTED BY SERGE SEIDEN



*...a rip-roaring
insightful production...*

DC THEATRE SCENE

JONATHAN SPECTOR



SERGE SEIDEN



A comedy for our moment about vaccines, *Eureka Day* asks the question: how do you find consensus when you can't agree on the facts?

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton joined the cast on Opening Night in the role of Winter.

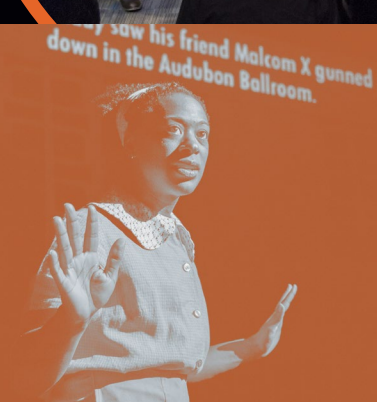
Photo: *Eureka Day* ensemble, by Christopher Banks.



ACCESSIBILITY INITIATIVE

Mosaic's Accessibility Initiative ensures that every production has performances accessible to the Deaf community. Every production has captioned performances and many post-show programs are ASL-interpreted.

Photo: Erika Rose in *Queens Girl in Africa*, by Stan Barouh.



PILGRIMS MUSA & SHERI IN THE NEW WORLD

BY YUSSEF EL GUINDI
DIRECTED BY SHIRLEY SEROTSKY



*...an energizing jolt...
vibrant...endearing...*

THE WASHINGTON POST

YUSSEF EL GUINDI



SHIRLEY SEROTSKY



Egyptian-American writer Yussef El-Guindi received the Steinberg New American Play Award for *Pilgrims Musa and Sheri in the New World* in which a night of passion turns into an extended exploration of upended cultural assumptions.

Photo: Ahmad Kamal and Rachel Felstein, by Christopher Banks.

NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT

A majority of Mosaic's programming has featured world, US, or regional premieres. The Trish Vradenburg New Play Commission supports the work of women playwrights, most recently Ifa Bayeza (*That Summer in Sumner*), Ally Currin (*Sooner/Later*), Mona Mansour (*The Vagrant Trilogy*), and Alexandra Petri (*Inherit the Windbag*).

Photo: Ifa Bayeza and Till Trilogy director, Talvin Wilks, by Christopher Banks.



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Mosaic Theater Company is able to produce independent, intercultural, entertaining, and uncensored theater thanks to the many individuals, foundations, and organizations who made generous contributions for FY20.

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DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities
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“We owe our existence to the visionary investment of Dan Logan. That’s why we’re honored to call him a co-founder.”

- Bill Tompkins, *Mosaic Theater Board President*

Dan Logan is President of the Revada Foundation, which supports theater, film, opera, and jazz in the DC area.

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Mosaic's many successes in FY20 are thanks to the dedication and hard work of the following.

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THE TILL TRILOGY

The Till Trilogy was cut short mid-rehearsal due to the health emergency in March 2020. Mosaic is committed to preserving the 3-part presentation for live performance, when it can have its greatest impact.

The now legendary story of Emmett “Bo” Till remains one of the most pivotal incidents of the 20th Century and is believed to have launched the modern Civil Rights Movement. This landmark undertaking brings to life the vividness of Emmett’s voice and spirit, the richness of his world, the tragedy of his brutal death, the miscarriage of justice in the trial of his murderers, and the indelible impact of his legacy on those left behind.

MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM :



Photo: Vaughn Ryan Midder as Emmett “Bo” Till, by Iwan Bagus.



MOSAIC THEATER COMPANY OF DC
www.mosaictheater.org

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
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Front Cover: Aakhu TuahNera Freeman, Roz White, and Felicia Curry in *Fabulation*.
Photos by Iwan Bagus. Composition and editing by Mel Prather.

Back Cover: John Lescault and Paul Morella in *Inherit the Windbag*.
Photo by Christopher Banks.