



**MOSAIC THEATER COMPANY OF DC'S PLAYWRIGHT IN RESIDENCE, PSALMAYENE 24, QUESTIONS THE IMPACT OF A DISTANT FATHER IN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL "DEAR MAPEL"**  
*Limited four-week run for this deeply personal story opens in person on January 19; Digital option available February 2*

**WASHINGTON** (Dec. 23, 2021) — Mosaic Theater Company of DC stages a world premiere of *Dear Mapel*, a deeply personal play written and performed by its Andrew W. Mellon Playwright in Residence, **Psalmayene 24**. The show opens January 19 for a limited four-week, in-person run.

The play, directed by visionary director **Natsu Onoda Power**, is a joyfully energetic coming-of-age story that takes viewers from Park Slope, Brooklyn to Washington, DC, on a journey through Psalm's adolescence and major life milestones which are often accentuated by the absence of his father, Mapel. Through a series of letters, both real and imagined, the creative team explores the power of the written word to connect us with our loved ones, our past, and our future.

"The process of writing this play has been emotionally harrowing and spiritually fulfilling in equal measure. I've opted not to hide behind fiction in this work—this play is the unvarnished autobiographical truth," said Psalmayene 24. "This is a means for me to finally and creatively confront a haunting element of my origin story. My hope is that it will be a gateway of healing for the audience and myself — a transformation of the demons in my life into guardian angels."

A trailer for the show can be found [here](#). RSVP for a press performance and access the show's press kit [here](#).

There will also be a streaming option available, beginning 8 p.m. EST on February 2 and running through 11:59 p.m. EST on February 13. With this video-on-demand option, viewers can watch the play from anywhere in the world. More information is available [here](#).

Inventive, auteur director Natsu Onoda Power, "a motivational dynamo" who often enchants audiences with wonderful works of technical magic, will create "an island in a river of memories" through live video projection and inventive prop design.

Accenting this "solo show in poetry" are the percussive stylings of **Jabari Exum**, a Peabody Institute alum and the drummer and movement coach on Marvel's "Black Panther" films, whose music adds a depth and richness to this world premiere production.

"Mosaic is thrilled to stage Psalmayene 24's autobiographical work that grapples with the sins of our fathers and how we reconcile past hurts with moving forward in the present," said **Reginald L. Douglas**, Mosaic's Artistic Director. "Psalm's play is a joyous, honest



reflection about Black masculinity and family told through visionary means and anchored by what is sure to be a tour-de-force performance from one of DC’s legendary artists.”

For more information and to buy tickets to an in-person performance, visit:  
<https://mosaictheater.org/dear-mapel>.

###

#### **ABOUT THE MOSAIC THEATER COMPANY OF DC**

Mosaic Theater Company of DC is committed to making transformational, socially relevant art, producing plays by authors on the front lines of conflict zones, and building a fusion community to address some of the most pressing issues of our times. Free public programming and educational initiatives complement our productions. Mosaic is dedicated to making our theater a model of diversity and inclusion on stage and off. We strive to foster a culture of listening and welcoming, embracing complexity and a multi-focal perspective.  
[www.mosaictheater.org](http://www.mosaictheater.org)

#### **ABOUT PSALMAYENE 24**

[Psalmayene 24 \(a.k.a. Gregory Morrison\)](#) 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. He is the writer and lyricist of *THE BLACKEST BATTLE* (Theater Alliance) and the writer, director, and lyricist of the film *THE FREEWHEELIN’ INSURGENTS* (Arena Stage).

#### **ABOUT NATSU ONODA POWER**

Natsu Onoda Power is an associate professor in Georgetown's Program in Theater and Performance Studies, where she has taught since 2005, including one class supported through the Berkley Center's Doyle Seminars project. As a playwright, her recent credits include *The T Party*, *A Trip to the Moon*, and *Astro Boy and the God of Comics*, for which she won the 2015 Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Director in Small Theatre. Directing credits include David Henry Hwang’s *Yellow Face* and Young Jean Lee’s *Songs of the Dragons Flying to Heaven*.