October 28, 2019

OPINIONS COLLIDE IN VACCINE-FUELED, AWARD-WINNING COMEDY, “EUREKA DAY”

WASHINGTON, D.C.— #WOKE Season 5 at Mosaic continues with an explosive comedy about vaccines and parental choice: Eureka Day, by Jonathan Spector. Wowing audiences and critics alike from California to New York, Mosaic Theater Company presents the play’s DC premiere over the holidays, directed by Helen Hayes Award winner Serge Seiden (Jacques Brels..., Bad Jews, Hooded, Or Being Black for Dummies).

Eureka Day runs at the Atlas Performing Arts Center from December 4, 2019 through January 5, 2020. Opening night is Monday, December 9 at 7:30 pm. It follows six preview performances, including a Pay-What-You-Can performance December 4 with additional Pay-What-You-Can tickets available throughout the preview period. Special “Not-Your-Mother’s-Holiday Play” performances have been added Monday, December 23 at 8pm and Monday, December 30 at 8pm.

The play is set in Berkeley, California at Eureka Day School where all decisions are made by consensus, diversity and inclusion are valued, and childhood vaccinations are a personal matter. When the mumps breaks out, the school’s executive committee must confront the central question: how do you find consensus when you can’t agree on the facts?

The New York Times called Eureka Day the “perfect play for our age of disagreement” and “one of the funniest plays to open this year.” The New Yorker raved that the play is “so brilliantly yoked to the current American moment—its flighty politics, its deadly folly—that it makes you want to jump out of your skin.”

Eureka Day was the recipient of an Originate + Generate commission at Aurora Theater in Berkeley, CA where it premiered in April 2018. The play received all of the region’s new play awards: Glickman Award, Theatre Bay Area Award, San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award, and Rella Lossy Award.

Founding Artistic Director Ari Roth remarked, “This play keeps being topical. Just last week the vaccine issue erupted in Congress when Rep. Bill Posey challenged Mark Zuckerberg about Facebook’s decision to censor vaccine misinformation. And mumps, a completely preventable disease, keeps popping up – striking without prejudice US migrant detention centers and college campuses across the country.”
Jonathan Spector said today, “During college, I briefly interned at Theatre J. Not only was it my first experience working in a professional theater, but Ari Roth was the first Real Live Professional Playwright I’d ever met. I can’t imagine a more gratifying way to make my home-town debut than with him and the team at Mosaic.”

_Eureka Day_ stars a diverse ensemble of DC actors including Regina Aquino (2019 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in _The Events_ at Theater Alliance), Elan Zafir (currently in _Everybody_ at Shakespeare Theatre), two–time Helen Hayes Award winner Lise Bruneau, Erica Chamblee (most recently _Sooner/Later_ at Mosaic) and newcomer Sam Lunay. Director Seiden said, “There is nothing more exciting than working with actors one respects and admires forever; this cast is thrilling and perfect for this play.”

As always and in advancement of its mission, Mosaic will host a series of post–show discussions exploring resonant themes present in _Eureka Day_, featuring a diverse set of panelists. These free post–show discussions, beginning immediately after the performance.

A full list of discussion dates and discussant bios for _Theory_ will be available soon at [http://www.mosaictheater.org/discussions](http://www.mosaictheater.org/discussions)

In conjunction with _Eureka Day_, Mosaic and the Atlas Performing Arts Center are hosting a _children’s book drive_ during the month of November. Gently used K–8 children’s books are being collected and will be donated to DC public elementary schools after filling the library shelves on the set of the play.

The design team includes Andrew Cohen (sets), Brittany Shemuga (lights), Brandee Mathies (costumes), David Lamont Wilson (sound), Dylan Uremovich (projections), and Deb Thomas (props).

Jonathan Spector (Playwright) is a playwright and theatre–maker based in Oakland, California. His play _EUREKA DAY_ premiered at Aurora Theatre in Berkeley, and won all of the region’s new play awards: Will Glickman Award, San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award, Rella Lossy Award, and Theatre Bay Area Award. Other plays include GOOD. BETTER. BEST. BESTED. (Custom Made Theatre, San Francisco), IN FROM THE COLD (Just Theater, Berkeley) and SIESTA KEY (Bay Area Playwrights Festival). He has developed work with Roundabout Theatre Company, Berkeley Rep’s Ground Floor, South Coast Rep, San Francisco Playhouse, Crowded Fire, Mugwumpin, Source Theater Festival, and Theatre of NOTE. Jonathan is a recipient of South Coast Rep’s Elizabeth George Commission, has been a MacDowell Colony Fellow, and was a Resident Playwright at Playwrights Foundation. He holds an MFA from San Francisco State University and was recently featured as one of "100 artists putting the East Bay on the map" by San Francisco Magazine.

He is the Co–Artistic Director of the award–winning Just Theater, which San Francisco Weekly has called “One of the Bay Area’s best small theaters." With Just Theater, he has produced and/or directed regional premieres of many adventurous new plays by writers
including Jackie Sibblies Drury, Anne Washburn, Jason Grote and Rob Handel. He was previously the Associate Artistic Director for the Bay Area Playwrights Festival/Playwrights Foundation, where he shepherded the development of over eighty new plays by some of country's leading playwrights including Annie Baker, Samuel D. Hunter, Marcus Gardley, and Sheila Callaghan. During a brief post-collegiate stint in New York as an aspiring director, he was a member of the Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab, the Lincoln Center Directors Lab and a frequent collaborator with The Civilians.

Serge Seiden (Director) joined Mosaic Theater Company as Managing Director and Producer to help found a company committed to social justice, and most recently directed Mosaic Theater Company’s Ulysses on Bottles and Hooded, or Being Black for Dummies. In 2013, Seiden received the Helen Hayes 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. Seiden also directed Studio’s acclaimed The Apple Family Cycle. From 1990 to 2015, Seiden held many positions at Studio including Stage Manager, Literary Manager, and Producing Director. Seiden was a key player in Studio’s 1996 and 2004 expansions—developments crucial to the re-emergence of 14th Street NW as a DC cultural hub. For 24 years, Seiden has been a member of the faculty of the Studio Acting Conservatory, where he trained as an actor and director.

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Additional Information about Eureka Day:
Pay What You Can Preview: Wednesday, December 4 at 8 PM
Additional Pay What You Can Preview Tix Available 1 Hour before show December 5-8.
Opening/Press Night: Monday, December 8 at 7:30 PM
Closes: Sunday, January 5 at 3:00 PM
Ticket Prices: $20-$65
Performance Times: 8 PM Wednesday–Saturday; 3 PM Saturday & Sunday

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: https://www.mosaictheater.org/eureka–day
VALET PARKING AVAILABLE AT 1360 H ST NE on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings, as well as Saturday and Sunday matinees.

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About Mosaic Theater Company of DC

Independent, intercultural, entertaining, and uncensored, 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. Dedicated to making our theater a model of diversity and inclusion at every strata, on stage and off, Mosaic invests in the new as we keep abreast of our changing and challenging times to ensure that our theater is a responsive gathering space, all the while nurturing and producing art of the highest order. Visit us at mosaictheater.org