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Mosaic Theater Company’s First Musical Extended; Movie Star Hired to Play Lead in Vicuña
The Devil’s Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith huge box office success; John de Lancie to play a Trump-inspired character in Jon Robin Baitz East Coast Premiere.

WASHINGTON, DC—The first show of Mosaic Theater’s third season, The Devil’s Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith, has been officially extended through October 1.

“Based on the success of Satchmo at the Waldorf, we were optimistic that The Devil’s Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith would provide us with a strong opening to Season Three,” notes Ari Roth, Mosaic’s Founding Artistic Director. “Our box office sales are already exceeding original projections and audiences are loving this musical exploration of an electrifying, tough, sexy, strong, and irreverent icon performed by one of the best blues singers around, Miche Braden. Because of the high demand for tickets, we have added seven additional performances, extending the show to October 1.”

The seven performances added to the run of The Devil’s Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith are: September 27 at 11 AM and 8 PM; September 28 at 8 PM; September 30 at 3 PM and 8 PM; and October 1 at 3 PM and 7:30 PM. There will be no performance on Friday night, September 29 in observation of the start of Yom Kippur.

Mosaic Theater has also officially signed on John de Lancie to star in the second play of the season, Vicuña & The American Epilogue written by Jon Robin Baitz (Other Desert Cities; TV’s Brothers & Sisters, and Feud Season 2). De Lancie is most well known for his role as Q in Star Trek: The Next Generation; Star Trek: Deep Space Nine; Star Trek: Voyager; and for his recurring role as Donald Margolis in Breaking Bad. In addition to his film credits, De Lancie has been a company member of the American Shakespeare Company, the Seattle Repertory Company, the South Coast Repertory, the Mark Taper Forum, and the Old Globe—and has worked extensively with the LA Philharmonic as the writer/director/host of “First Nights.” De Lancie will be portraying a Donald Trump-inspired real-estate tycoon prepping for his final presidential debate in this “lethal, ruthless, and comprehensive satire” (Stage Raw) and will be joined by original Vicuña cast member Brian George (also an alum of the Star Trek franchise) in the role of the Iranian bespoke tailor Anselm, and by local favorites Laura C. Harris in the role of the candidate’s daughter, Srilanka, and Kimberly Schraf as Senator Kitty Finch-Gibbon, head of the Republican National Committee.
*Vicuña* had its world premiere in October 2016 at Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles. Following a harrowing experience at the hands of a Trump supporter on the night of the election, Baitz penned *The American Epilogue* as a second part of the *Vicuña* story. Mosaic’s production will include both parts, giving *The American Épilogue* its world premiere. The production will be directed by Robert Egan, the Artistic Director/Producer of the Ojai Playwrights Conference.

“This incredible new play required a very talented actor to play the Trump (but really much smarter than Trump) role, and we are so thrilled to have John de Lancie bringing his experience, comedic chops, and star-power to Washington, DC,” said Roth. “We are additionally honored that Jon Robin Baitz has chosen to work with us to bring the second installment of *Vicuña* to life. This play is gripping, funny, thought-provoking, and could not be more timely.”

**Additional Information about *The Devil’s Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith***

**Tickets:** Tickets for *The Devil’s Music* are $20-$65, plus applicable fees. For information on savings programs such as discounts and packages, visit mosaictheater.org/tickets. Tickets may be purchased online at mosaictheater.org, by phone at 202-399-7993 ext. 2, or at the Atlas Performing Arts Center Box Office at 1333 H Street NE, Washington DC 20002.

**Special Performances and Post Show Discussions:** Student matinee at 11 AM on Thursday September 14 and Wednesday September 27; Open Captions at 3 PM and 8 PM on September 16 and at 3 PM and 7:30 PM on September 17. We are proud to be offering a signed post-show discussion after the 3 PM performance on September 17. A full line-up of discussions throughout the run of *The Devil’s Music* will be posted shortly on Mosaic’s website.

For all other information, visit: [http://www.mosaictheater.org/the-devils-music](http://www.mosaictheater.org/the-devils-music).

**Additional Information about *Vicuña & The American Epilogue***

**Opening Night:** Monday, November 6, 2017

**Special Performances and Post Show Discussions:** PWYC preview on November 1 at 8 PM; Student Matinee at 11 AM on November 9; Open Captions provided at 3:00 PM and 8:00 PM on November 11, at 3:00 PM on November 12, and at 8 PM on November 15; Peace Café on November 18 at 3 PM. For a full line-up of post-show discussions and any other information, visit: [http://www.mosaictheater.org/vicuna](http://www.mosaictheater.org/vicuna)

**VALET PARKING NOW AVAILABLE FOR ALL PERFORMANCES (EXCLUDING PREVIEWS) AT 1360 H ST.**

**About Mosaic Theatre 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.

Other Opening Nights for Season Three:

Monday, November 13, 2017: *The Real Americans*
Monday, December 4, 2017: *Draw the Circle*
Monday, January 8, 2018: *Queens Girl in Africa*
Tuesday, April 3, 2018: *Paper Dolls*
Monday, May 7, 2018: *Hooded, Or Being Black for Dummies*
Monday, June 11, 2018: *The Vagrant Trilogy*