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**MOSAIC THEATER COMPANY'S 'INHERIT THE WINDBAG' SHINES COMEDIC  
SPOTLIGHT ON THE DAWN OF AMERICAN TV PUNDITRY**

*World Premiere of this searing battle of wits, written by Washington Post columnist Alexandra Petri, runs March 11-29; stars Paul Morella as Gore Vidal and John Lescault as William F. Buckley*

WASHINGTON (Tuesday, February 12, 2020) — [Mosaic Theater Company of DC](http://www.mosaictheater.org) presents the world premiere of The Washington Post columnist and playwright **Alexandra Petri**'s searing satire of American TV punditry, "[Inherit the Windbag](http://www.mosaictheater.org)." The show will run at the Atlas Performing Arts Center from March 11-29, 2020 with a Press & Opening Night on March 16th.

Mosaic's #WOKESeason 5 continues with an examination of one of the most important moments in the making of American history with a cast of infamous characters who defined the '60s and '70s political climate. In the summer of 1968, liberal Gore Vidal and conservative William F. Buckley met for a series of ten debates orbiting the Republican and Democratic Presidential Conventions of 1968, when Richard Nixon ran against Hubert Humphrey. These shockingly raw televised debates rocked the American media landscape and defined the genre of punditry.

Now, for one evening only, Vidal and Buckley meet again in the Dismal Beyond (also known as the Richard Nixon Presidential Library in Yorba Linda, CA) to reprise their infamous carnage. What ensues is a battle for history itself, in a no-holds-barred sesquipedalian brawl and satirical battle of wits, assisted by an ever-revolving cast of characters from James Baldwin to Truman Capote to Ayn Rand.

The show stars award-winning actors **John Lescault** (William F. Buckley) and **Paul Morella** (Gore Vidal) and is directed by **Lee Mikeska Gardner**. The show also features **Stephen Kime** and **Tamieka Chavis**.

This parody of American punditry was commissioned specifically for Mosaic Theater through the **Trish Vradenburg Play Commission** as part of the **Locally Grown Mosaic Program** by the youngest writer to have a column at The Washington Post, Alexandra Petri. Petri is a columnist and playwright as well as a blogger, writer of two books, a stand-up comic, an International Pun Champion, and a Jeopardy! Loser.

Alexandra Petri notes, "I think '68 was a year when lots of things broke. The fascinating thing is how many of the debates they were having then are the same as the ones we're having now, just in a different verbal guise. Questions of racial justice, so-called law and order, American imperialism, wealth disparity -- these are all still with us."

The World Premiere of *Inherit the Windbag* by Alexandra Petri **runs March 11 - 29, 2020**. For more information about the show and actors, and to purchase tickets, go to <https://www.mosaictheater.org/inherit-the-windbag>.

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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. We complement our productions with comprehensive engagement through free pre- and post-show programming, an annual intercultural festival, like our “Voices From a Changing Middle East” series, and educational initiatives, including our touring “Mosaic on the Move.” We strive to foster a culture of listening and welcoming, embracing complexity and a multi-focal perspective. Our plays speak truth to power and to the private places of our soul.

**The Trish Vradenburg Play Commission** is generously underwritten by The Vradenburg Foundation and designates funds to support women playwrights in the development, writing, and producing of new works of contemporary theater. A pioneering philanthropist, humorist, novelist, playwright, screenwriter, journalist and one of the nation’s leading advocates in the global fight against Alzheimer’s disease, Trish Vradenburg began her career as a speechwriter in the United States Senate. She was a writer for several highly successful television programs including *Designing Women*, *Family Ties* and *Kate and Allie*. Her novel, *Liberated Lady*, was a Literary Guild and Doubleday Book Club selection. Her play *The Apple Doesn’t Fall...* was produced at the Tiffany Theater in Los Angeles and on Broadway at the Lyceum Theatre, while *Surviving Grace* was produced at the Kennedy Center and Off-Broadway at the Union Square Theatre. Both plays are accounts of Vradenburg’s time as an Alzheimer’s caregiver for her mother, who died of the disease in 1991. She achieved notable success in journalism, her byline appearing extensively in *The New York Daily News*, *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Ladies’ Home Journal*, and *Women’s Day*. She was an active member of the Theater J Council and a passionate endorser and pioneering supporter of the founding of Mosaic Theater Company of DC.

**Locally Grown Mosaic** is our in-house program to nurture local artists through commissions, new play development and full productions. In Season Two, we produced the world premiere of Tearrance Arvelle Chisholm’s “Hooded,” written while Chisholm completed his MFA at Catholic University. In Season Three, we commissioned and produced the World Premiere of “Queens Girl In Africa” by local playwright and scholar Caleen Sinnette Jennings, a captivating story of migration, coming-of-age and political awakening from New York City to Nigeria in the 1960s. It was our second-highest attended production in Season Three and was created entirely by top talent from the DC area. In Season Four we commissioned and produced Psamayene 24’s “Les Deux Noirs: Notes on Notes of A Native Son,” part of our “Native Son Rep.” Several local playwrights presented their works-in progress during our Readings Series in 2018, including “To Kill A King” by Josh Ford, “A Moving Picture” by Jennie Berman Eng, and “East Of The River (Part I)” by Star Johnson.

**Alexandra Petri** is a playwright, columnist, and author. Her satire appears regularly in the *Washington Post*, and has also appeared in *McSweeney’s* and the *New Yorker’s* *Daily Shouts and Murmurs*, as well as on the radio, and on TV. Her plays include the radio drama *Equinox* (Flying V Productions), *to tell my story: a hamlet fanfic* (The Welders, Helen-Hayes nominated), *Tragedy Averted* (Capital Fringe), *hook-ups* (Pandora’s Box Productions). She was a member of the second generation of the Welders playwrights collective, and is currently a member of the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Advanced Workshop. Up next: *NOTHING IS WRONG AND HERE IS WHY*, a collection of essays.