Mosaic Theater Company Press Release
Ari Roth, Founding Artistic Director • Serge Seiden, Managing Director & Producer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Press Night: Monday, May 7 at 7:30 PM

April 25, 2018

Mosaic Theater Company Remounts Helen-Hayes Nominated Hooded: Or Being Black for Dummies
One of Mosaic’s Most Popular Shows Returns for Five-Week Run

WASHINGTON, DC—the penultimate production of Mosaic Theater Company’s third season will be a remount Hooded: Or Being Black for Dummies, written by local rising star Tearrance Arvelle Chisholm and directed by Mosaic’s Managing Director Serge Seiden with Associate Director Vaughn Ryan Midder. Mosaic’s first production of Hooded: Or Being Black for Dummies is currently nominated for the Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding Original New Play, which gives DC audiences the rare opportunity to see a nominated production during the same month as the awards.

“Tearrance’s remarkable play feels even more timely this season, as our country continues to struggle with issues surrounding racism and violence. This multifaceted depiction of what it means to be a young Black man is packed with moments that are both comedic and tragic, engaging the audience in an unforgettable night at the theater. Last season’s production was so popular that the last sixteen performances were sold out. We knew we had to bring Hooded back to satisfy the demand for this terrific production.”

Hooded follows two young African American men, Marquis (played by Keith L. Royal Smith) and Tru (played by Jeremy Keith Hunter), who meet in a holding cell where both are being unlawfully detained. Marquis is a book-smart prep school kid from suburban Maryland, and Tru a street-savvy Baltimorean who thinks Marquis has lost touch with his roots. Tru takes Marquis under his wing by penning a how-to manual called “Being Black for Dummies,” as various influences vie for Marquis’ uncertain future.

All but one of the original cast, and all of the original designers, will return to stage this remount. In addition to Hunter and Smith, the cast includes: Josh Adams, Madeline Joey Rose, Emma Lou Hébert, Marni Penning Coleman, Dylan Morrison Myers, and Fred Strother. The set designer is Ethan Sinnott, the lighting designer is Brittany Shemuga, the sound designer is David Lamont Wilson, the costume designer is Brandee Mathies, and the projections designers are Roc Lee and Mimi d’Autremont. Every single performance will have surtitles projected directly onto the set to make this production fully accessible.

“I am thrilled to be remounting this special production,” said director Serge Seiden. “Hooded is an entertaining and striking piece of art that jumps head first into the realities that too many, if
not all, African American teenage boys in this country have to experience first-hand. Last season, this production resonated strongly with our audiences, and I’m excited to continue the conversations sparked by this play.”

“Tearrance’s genius with Hooded is that it is essentially a social experiment that gauges the audience’s awareness from beginning to end,” added associate director Vaughn Ryan Midder. “He breaks the rules: blurring the very real with the surreal, connecting the past, present, and future, and loading every joke with a much larger socio-political question. It’s one of the very few plays I feel was written just for me! The title alone, Hooded, Or Being Black for Dummies, is motivation enough for every privileged American to buy a ticket.”

Additional Information about Hooded: Or Being Black for Dummies

ALL PERFORMANCES WILL BE OPEN CAPTIONED
Opening/Press Night Night: Monday, May 7 at 7:30 PM
Closes Sunday, June 3 at 7:30 PM
Weekly Schedule: performs Wednesday-Friday at 8 PM; Saturday at 3 PM and 8 PM; Sunday at 3 PM and 7:30 PM
Ticket Prices: $20-$65
Special Performances and Post Show Discussions: PWYC preview on May 2 at 8 PM; Weekday Matinee at 11 AM on Thursday, May 10. A full list of discussion dates and discussant bios will be available on mosaictheater.org/discussions.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION VISIT: http://www.mosaictheater.org/hooded-remount

VALET PARKING AVAILABLE AT 1360 H ST NE

About Tearrance Arvelle Chisholm

Tearrance Arvelle Chisholm was last seen in DC when his play Hooded, Or Being Black for Dummies ran at Mosaic Theater last season (Helen Hayes Nomination: Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding Original New Play or Musical.) Tearrance's play Br'er Cotton recently had a critically-acclaimed production by London's Theatre 503, as well as an NNPN Rolling World Premiere, with productions at Kitchen Dog Theater in Dallas, Lower Depth Ensemble in Los Angeles and Cleveland Public. Next season, Tearrance will return to DC to present the world premiere of P.Y.G. at Studio Theater; the play has previously been developed at the Magic Theater's Virgin Play Festival and at Juilliard. Tearrance has developed new works with Signature Theatre, Theatre J, Theatre Alliance, and The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. He has held residencies at The Bay Area Playwrights Festival, The Virginia Center for Creative Arts, Djerassi Resident Artists Program and The Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference. He was a finalist for the Inaugural Relentless Award and the Theatre 503 Playwriting Award. Tearrance received two of the 2016 National KCACTF awards, the Rosa Parks Playwriting Award and the Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award. Tearrance was a part of the Pacific Playwrights Festival at South Coast Rep with his play Anacostia Street Lions. He developed the play Black Lady Authority under the auspices of the Sundance Theater
Lab. Tearrance holds an MFA in Playwriting from the Catholic University of America. He is about to graduate from the Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program at Julliard, and is a Sundance Institute and Time Warner Foundation Fellow, and a 2050 Fellow at New York Theater Workshop.

About Serge Seiden
Serge Seiden joined Mosaic Theater Company as Managing Director & Producer to help found a company committed to social justice, and directed Mosaic Theater Company’s Ulysses on Bottles and When January Feels Like Summer in addition to Hooded: Or Being Black for Dummies. In 2013 Seiden received the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Director of a 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, and was remounted twice. Seiden also directed Studio’s acclaimed 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 20 years Seiden has been a member of the faculty of the Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory, where he trained as an actor and director. More recent directing credits include Everett Quinton’s A Tale of Two Cities at Synetic Theater, Freud’s Last Session at Theater J, and Clifford Odets’ Awake and Sing! at Olney Theatre Center. Other Studio Theatre credits include The Motherfucker with the Hat, The Golden Dragon, Superior Donuts, In the Red and Brown Water, Grey Gardens, My Children! My Africa!, Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins, and Old Wicked Songs. Two of his productions at Adventure Theatre MTC—A Little House Christmas and Charlotte’s Web—were both nominated for Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Production/ Theatre for Young Audiences.

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.