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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Megan Behm, Director of Marketing and Press Relations
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Press Night: Tuesday, April 3 at 7:30 PM

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Mosaic Theater Company Kicks Off Annual Voices from a Changing Middle East Festival with American Premiere of Paper Dolls
Karaoke Musical Inspired by Acclaimed Documentary comes to H Street in Late March

WASHINGTON, DC—the sixth production of Mosaic Theater Company’s third season will be Paper Dolls, written by Philip Himberg (Producing Artistic Director of the Sundance Institute Theatre Program) and directed by Broadway veteran Mark Brokaw. This uplifting, entertaining, and thought-provoking play with songs illuminates the world of five gay male Filipino nurses in Tel Aviv who care for elderly Orthodox and Chasidic men six days a week—and headline a drag show on their day off!

“Paper Dolls represents all of our key values at Mosaic Theater Company,” says founding Artistic Director Ari Roth. “It’s an exuberant, highly entertaining theatrical event that also touches on many important themes: how immigrants reconstitute family in a strange land; our longing and need for a sense of home; the evolving nature of social dramas impacting life in Israel; and how important and challenging it can be for an individual to find his or her place in a community.”

Paper Dolls was inspired by and adapted from the award-winning 2006 Israeli documentary by Tomer Heymann and produced by Stanley Buchthal, who later executive produced the stage adaptation in conjunction with Bob Benton of Bob & Co Partners. The stage adaptation had its world premiere at the Tricycle Theatre in London in 2013, and was called “both achingly intimate and rich in universal themes” by The Times. Paper Dolls was further developed by the Sundance Institute Theatre Program. Buchthal and Benton will again join forces as executive producers on Mosaic’s American premiere production.

While Paper Dolls is not a traditional musical, the play features live performances of a diverse combination of Israeli popular music (including songs from the balladeer Sarit Hadad), Traditional Hebrew and Israeli pioneering music (“Dona Dona” and “Tzena Tzena”), American/British popular music (including Kate Bush, Cyndi Lauper, Lou Reed, Mika, and Shirley Bassey), and songs in Tagalog. Mosaic’s American premiere production will be helmed by the celebrated Broadway director Mark Brokaw and choreographed by Jeff Michael Rebudal (Artistic Director of Rebudal Dance; credits include the New York City Opera, the Metropolitan Opera, and the Lincoln Center). The design team includes: set design by James Kronzer (Glory Days at Signature Theatre/Circle in the Square), costumes by Frank Labovitz (In the Heights at Olney Theater Center/Roundhouse), lighting design by Brittany Shemuga, projection design by

“We are thrilled to have such a talented team coming to Mosaic from all over America (and London too) to tell this inspiring, true story that is also a perfect fit for our Voices from a Changing Middle East Festival,” added Roth. “*Paper Dolls* is a rousing celebration of a fusion of cultures within modern-day Israel, and how cultures can both clash and come together while crossing both literal and figurative borders. It is an honest and empowering production that will also feel shockingly relevant to American audiences and we can’t wait to bring it to DC!”

**Additional Information about Paper Dolls**

**Opening Night:** Tuesday, April 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 March 29 at 8 PM; Weekday Matinee at 11 AM on Thursday, April 12. Open-Captioned performances on Saturday April 21 at 3 & 8 PM and 3 & 7:30 PM. A full list of discussion dates and discussant bios will be available on [mosaictheater.org/discussions](http://www.mosaictheater.org/discussions).  
**Billing:**  
*PAPER DOLLS*  
By Philip Himberg | Directed by Mark Brokaw  
Based on the Film by Tomer Heymann  
In association with Stanley Buchthal and Bob and Co, Ltd  
Developed by the Sundance Institute Theatre Program  

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION VISIT: [www.mosaictheater.org/paper-dolls](http://www.mosaictheater.org/paper-dolls)

**VALET PARKING AVAILABLE AT 1360 H ST NE**

**About Philip Himberg**  
Philip Himberg co-wrote and directed *Carry It On*, a solo musical play for Maureen McGovern (Arena Stage, Huntington Theater, GEVA, Two Rivers). *Paper Dolls* had its world premiere (Tricycle Theatre, London) in 2013 and was published by Bloomsbury Methuen. His most recent play, *Swimming Circles* is based on his published essay “Family Albums” in the anthology “Girls Who Like Boys Who Like Boys” (Dutton) and recently received its premiere reading (Diversionary Theater San Diego). Philip directed the world premiere of Terrence McNally’s *Some Men* (Philadelphia Theatre Company), *Flora the Red Menace* (Reprise LA), Bill Finn’s *Elegies* (west coast premiere) and for the Sundance Summer Theatre, productions of *Fiddler on the Roof* (Michael Rupert), *Funny Girl* (Judy Blazer), among others. Since 1997 Philip has served as Artistic Director of the *Sundance Institute Theatre Program*. Under his aegis, the Institute’s developmental theatre labs have supported hundreds of artists, new plays and musicals that have gone on to production and acclaim at US regional theatres, internationally, and on
Broadway (Fun Home, Indecent, Spring Awakening, Grey Gardens, I Am My Own Wife, among others). The Theatre Program’s core international work currently focuses on an ongoing interaction with Arabic language theatre makers across the globe. Philip is a former Tony Award nominator and past President of the Board of Theatre Communications Group. He has taught at NYU and the Yale Drama School. Mr. Himberg holds a degree as a doctor of Chinese Medicine and is a licensed acupuncturist since 1985.

About Mark Brokaw
Mark Brokaw’s Broadway credits include Rogers & Hammerstein’s Cinderella, The Lyons, After Miss Julie, Reckless, The Constant Wife, and Cry-Baby. New York premieres include works by Douglas Carter Beane, Lisa Kron, Kenneth Lonergan, Craig Lucas, Nicky Silver, Simon Stephens, and Paula Vogel. His regional credits include the Sondheim Celebration at the Kennedy Center, the Guthrie, Center Theatre Group, Steppenwolf, Seattle Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, Yale Rep, Sundance Theatre Lab, and the O’Neill Theatre Conference. His work has also been seen on the West End, at London’s Donmar Warehouse and Menier Chocolate Factory, Dublin’s Gate Theatre, and Sydney Opera House. Mark is an Associate Artist of the Roundabout Theatre in New York and a Yale School of Drama graduate.

About Tomer Heymann
Tomer Heymann was born in Kfar Yedidia in Israel in 1970 and has directed many documentary films and series in the past ten years, most of them long-term follow-ups and personal documentations. Paper Dolls won three awards at the 2006 Berlin Film Festival and the audience’s award at the Los Angeles Festival. The film and TV series Bridge over the Wadi, co-produced with the American ITVS, won the Israeli Documentary Film competition, participated in IDFA Festival’s prestigious competition and won many awards around the world. Tomer’s new 8-part series The Way Home was recently broadcast by the Yes Doco Channel in Israel and won the best documentary series award at the 2009 Jerusalem International Film Festival.

About the Voices from a Changing Middle East Festival
Created in 2000 by Founding Artistic Director Ari Roth when he led Theater J to become the largest Jewish theater in the country, the Voices from a Changing Middle East Festival became the critically-hailed yet controversial program that triggered the dramatic inception of Mosaic Theater Company at the end of 2014 after Theater J’s parent organization, the DCJCC, canceled the Voices Festival in response to select community pressure and ousted Roth for his protestations. Over 14 seasons at Theater J, the Voices Festival grew to become a hub for civic and cultural drama in Washington, DC, offering 20 provocative productions and 39 workshop presentations to tens of thousands of local and regional audience members. Among the highlights: Motti Lerner’s West Bank drama, Pangs of the Messiah (2007); Hadar Galron’s cry for feminism within the religious community, Mikveh (2010); The Cameri Theatre of Tel Aviv’s production of Return to Haifa, performed in Hebrew and Arabic and adapted by Boaz Gaon from the landmark Palestinian novella by Ghassan Kanafani (2011); and the acclaimed, controversial 2014 production of Motti Lerner’s The Admission, which soon transferred to Studio Theatre, about an alleged massacre outside Haifa during the war of 1948. In Mosaic’s inaugural season, the Voices Festival staged five works including Wrestling Jerusalem by Aaron Davidman; I Shall Not Hate by Izzeldin Abuelaish; Hkeelee by Leila Buck; Promised Land by Shachar
Pinkhas and Shay Pitovsky; and After the War by Motti Lerner. In Season Two, the Festival marked the 50th anniversary of The Occupation with dual Israeli/Palestinian perspectives, offering Gilad Evron’s Ulysses on Bottles and The Return by Hanna Eady and Edward Mast.

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.

Remaining Opening Nights for Season Three:

Monday, May 7, 2018: Hooded, Or Being Black for Dummies
Monday, June 11, 2018: The Vagrant Trilogy