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## Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company presents world premiere of *My Mama and the Full-Scale Invasion* by Sasha Denisova

This production directed by Yury Urnov runs September 11 - October  
8, 2023

WASHINGTON –Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company kicks off its 2023-24 Enter the Woollyverse season with the world premiere of *My Mama and the Full-Scale Invasion*, an over-the-top look at the current war and invasion in Ukraine through one family’s story. The play runs September 11 – October 8 at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company (641 D St NW). Tickets and further information can be found at the new Woolly Mammoth website [here](#).

*My Mama...* is a co-production with The Wilma Theater, written by Sasha Denisova, translated by Misha Kachman (WMTC Company of Artists), adapted by Kellie Mecleary, and directed by Yury Urnov (WMTC Company of Artists, Wilma Co-Artistic Director). In the play, Sasha’s 82-year-old mother, Olga, is on the frontlines of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, having lived in Kyiv her whole life. Olga is thrust into increasingly fantastical situations: she strategizes with President Zelenskyy, strikes Russian drones with jars of pickles, and even debates with God. Inspired by online chats with her mother, playwright Sasha Denisova brings us this new play about a family’s connection and legacy amidst the present-day war and global crisis.

“We’re starting our season off with a bang—a world premiere of a powerful mother/daughter story, a co-production with the incomparable Wilma Theater, bringing Holly Twyford back to the Woolly Mammoth stage, and provoking conversation about Russia’s invasion and Ukraine’s resistance,” Maria Manuela Goyanes, Woolly Mammoth’s Artistic Director says. “This play contains multitudes: poetic and lyrical, powerful and thought-provoking, funny and outrageous. It’s a joy to work alongside the talented artists of the Wilma, along with several members of our Company of Artists, to bring this new play to life in Washington, DC. This is perfect for our audience and DC community, who never shy away from art that speaks to the moment right now.”

**ABOUT THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM**

D.C. legend **Holly Twyford** returns to Woolly Mammoth as the titular Mother. Wilma HotHouse Company Member **Suli Holum** plays Daughter and Wilma co-Artistic Director **Lindsay Smiling** is Man.



The Assistant Director is **Fatima Dyfan**, Scenic Designer is **Misha Kachman** (WMTC Company of Artists), Associate Scenic Designer is **Margarita Syrocheva**, Costume Designer is **Ivania Stack** (WMTC Company of Artists), Associate Costume Designer is **Kitt Crescenzo**, Lighting Designer is **Venus Gulbranson**, Associate Lighting Designer is **Dean Leong**, Sound Designer & Composer is **Michael Kiley**, Projection Designer is **Kelly Colburn**, Associate Projection Designer is **Dylan Uremovich**, Co-Dramaturgs are **Sonia Fernandez** and **Kellie Mecleary**, Stage Manager is **Becky Reed**, Rehearsal Assistant Stage Manager is **Jazzy Davis**, Performance Assistant Stage Manager is **Miranda Korieth**, and Understudy Casting is **Chelsea Radigan**.



### PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

*My Mama...* runs from September 11 – October 8. The typical performance week includes Wednesday-Sunday performances, with weeknights at 8 PM, Saturdays at 3 PM and 8 PM, and Sundays at 2 PM and 7 PM. View the full performance schedule at [woollymammoth.net](http://woollymammoth.net).

There are Pay-What-You-Will preview performances on September 11 and 12. Previews run through September 15, with the invited Opening Night on September 16.

A special Golden Ticket member night will be held on September 22, with a pre-show mix-and-mingle and free concessions item for any of Woolly Mammoth's Golden Ticket holders in attendance.

### ACCESS PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

- ASL Interpreted performances on September 23 (8 pm) and October 1 (2 pm) which feature interpreters placed inside the theatre who translate what the actors are saying and expressing to the audience.
- Audio Described performances on September 30 (3 pm) and October 7 (3 pm) which feature live narration interspersed with the actors' dialogue used to provide information surrounding key visual elements.
- Open Captioned performances on September 27 (8 pm) and September 28 (8 pm) which feature permanently visible, on-screen text description that displays dialogue, identifies speakers and describes other relevant sounds

Assistive listening devices are available for all performances. Transmitters and accompanying headsets and ear speakers are available at the Box Office. For more information on Access Performances please visit the play's website page.

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets to *My Mama...* and *Public Obscenities* are on sale now. Tickets start at \$34 and are available at [woollymammoth.net](http://woollymammoth.net), by phone at (202) 393-3939, and via email at [tickets@woollymammoth.net](mailto:tickets@woollymammoth.net).

Preview Pay-What-You-Will performances on September 11 & 12 through Woolly Mammoth and TodayTix. There are also Pay-What-You-Will tickets available for every remaining performance by selecting the PWYW seats and adjusting the ticket price at [woollymammoth.net](http://woollymammoth.net).

Patrons who are 30 years old and younger may purchase tickets starting at \$25 to any performance. There are also discounts available for educators, first responders, and active U.S. military personnel, spouses, and veterans. More information is available at [woollymammoth.net](http://woollymammoth.net).

Golden Tickets are also available now, providing an all-access pass to see any project in the Enter the Woollyverse season at WMTC, plus a special offer to *Where We Belong* at the Folger Theatre. One 2023-24 Golden Ticket is priced at \$375, with a limited number available at a more accessible price of \$250. They can be purchased online at [woollymammoth.net](http://woollymammoth.net), by phone at (202) 393-3939, or via e-mail at [tickets@woollymammoth.net](mailto:tickets@woollymammoth.net).

#### ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

**Sasha Denisova (she/her)** is a playwright, a director, a writer, and a Ukrainian. Sasha was born in Kiev. She graduated from the Philology Department of Kiev Taras Shevchenko University. Sasha subsequently studied theater and worked at various theatre companies in Russia. While residing in Russia she studied documentary theater at the Theater. Doc company in Moscow, trained at Royal Court in London and graduated from the School of a Theater Leader, a program run by the Moscow Art Theatre School. She served as a deputy artistic director at the Mayakovsky Theater and as the chief dramaturg at the Meyerhold Center in Moscow, and she also taught documentary theater and screenwriting at the Moscow School of New Cinema.

Sasha's play *Light My Fire* was awarded Russia's highest theatre prize, The Golden Mask, in 2012. As a playwright and director Sasha has produced more than 25 performances at Moscow stages, including *The Dusty Day*, *Alice and the State*, *Sforza*, *Hotel California*, *Sea. Pines*, *Batman vs. Brezhnev*, and *Hermione*. Sasha makes sharply social, political theater in which documentary material merges with magical and fantastical. She fled Moscow for Poland immediately after the outbreak of full-scale war in Ukraine. At the same time, all of Sasha's productions in Russia were shut down. Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion she has written and staged 4 plays, all of them about the war: *Six Ribs of Anger*, about the fate of Ukrainian refugees in Europe (first presented at Kommuna Warszawa in Poland); *My Mom and the Full-scale Invasion* (first staged reading: Barcelona, CCCV Museum of Contemporary Art with the support from the Artists at Risk initiative); *The Hague*, an account of a tribunal against Putin and his gang that takes place in the imagination of a Ukrainian girl from Mariupol, which Sasha also directed at the Polish Theater in Poznan (February 2023) and at the Arlekin Players Theater in Boston (June 2023); and *Bakhmut*, a story of two women who mourn the same man, an intellectual whom they had loved and who gave his life for his country.

### **ABOUT WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY**

The Tony Award®-winning Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company creates badass theatre that highlights the stunning, challenging, and tremendous complexity of our world. For over 40 years, Woolly has maintained a high standard of artistic rigor while simultaneously daring to take risks, innovate, and push beyond perceived boundaries. One of the few remaining theatres in the country to maintain a company of artists, Woolly serves an essential research and development role within the American theatre. Plays premiered here have gone on to productions at hundreds of theatres all over the world and have had lasting impacts on the field. Currently co-led by Artistic Director Maria Manuela Goyanes and Managing Director Kimberly E. Douglas, Woolly is located in Washington, DC, equidistant from the Capitol and the White House. This unique location influences Woolly's investment in actively working towards an equitable, participatory, and creative democracy.

Woolly Mammoth stands upon occupied, unceded territory: the ancestral homeland of the Nacotchtank whose descendants belong to the Piscataway peoples. Furthermore, the foundation of this city, and most of the original buildings in Washington, DC, were funded by the sale of enslaved people of African descent and built by their hands.

### **ABOUT THE WILMA THEATER**

Established in 1973, The Wilma Theater (265 S Broad St, Philadelphia, PA 19107) is a non-profit theater company creating living, adventurous art engaging artists and audiences in imaginative reflections on the complexities of contemporary life. The theater presents bold, original productions representing a range of voices, viewpoints, and styles in order to develop the form and push existing conventions. Many of the roles in The Wilma's productions are cast from its acclaimed, award-winning resident artists, The HotHouse Company, who meet weekly to train, read plays, and develop their artistry. The organization is currently led by a creative cohort of three co-artistic directors, Morgan Green, Lindsay Smiling, and Yury Urnov, and Managing Director Leigh Goldenberg. Learn more about The Wilma Theater and purchase tickets at [www.wilmatheater.org](http://www.wilmatheater.org).

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