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SONIA FERNANDEZ JOINS WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY AS DIRECTOR OF NEW WORK

(Washington, DC) Woolly Mammoth welcomes **Sonia Fernandez** as the Director of New Work. She comes to Woolly Mammoth from Magic Theatre in San Francisco, CA where she served for five years as Associate Artistic Director before being promoted to the role of Interim Artistic Director.

Sonia Fernandez is a dramaturg, casting director, administrator, and producer specializing in new work. While at Magic Theatre, she produced Magic's annual Virgin Play Festival. Some favorite dramaturgy credits include the world premieres of *Don't Eat the Mangos* by Ricardo Pérez González at Magic, *Quixote Nuevo* by Octavio Solis at Cal Shakes and *The Chinese Lady* by Lloyd Suh also at Magic.



As a dramaturg of new work with over a decade of experience, she has worked with Cal Shakes, ACT, Playwrights Foundation, The Kennedy Center/NNPN, Moxie Theatre among others. She is a long-time resident artist with Crowded Fire Theatre (CFT), where she has dramaturged several projects over the years and serves on CFT's EDI Squad. Sonia is a member of the Seed Team for the Bay Area Accountability Work Group. Sonia is also a proud member of art Equity's BIPOC Leadership Circle. Sonia received an AB from Princeton and Master's from San Francisco State.

"Sonia's impressive reputation definitely preceded her," says Woolly Mammoth Artistic Director **Maria Manuela Goyanes**. "I had heard of her dramaturgical skills from so many artists on the West Coast, and now the East Coast gets to share in her brilliance. Both she and Woolly share a commitment to inclusivity, rigor, and experimentation in the creation of new work - our team is eager to work alongside her and create theatre together."

In her new leadership role, Sonia will lead the organization's local, national, and international search for projects and artists that align with Woolly's mission and values. Woolly recently shifted from a Literary Department to a New Work Department to honor our history of presenting and producing works that may or may not start with the written word. As a member of Woolly's Core Leadership Team, Sonia will also serve as a strategic and creative collaborator in service of long-term direction setting and short-term decision-making for the organization.

"Woolly Mammoth epitomizes the kind of relentlessly curious, risk-taking, high-quality and radically-inclusive art-making that nourishes my soul. I've kept my eye on the work from Woolly my entire career because of its position as a leader, not only in new play development and production but also in civic dramaturgy through authentic partnership with the community," says Sonia of her new role. "The fact that I get to be part of the team is a real honor. Woolly is particularly poised to meet this moment of extraordinary challenge and equally extraordinary potential with its characteristic daring, collaborative spirit and care and I am thrilled to be a part of the change that is coming."

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ABOUT WOOLLY

Woolly Mammoth is "the hottest theater company in town" (Washington Post); priding itself on developing, producing, and making theatre that disrupts conventional processes and stimulates transformative experiences. For almost four decades, Woolly has held a unique position at the leading edge of the American theater, earning a reputation for staying "uniquely plugged in to the mad temper of the times" (New York Times). The co-leadership of María Manuela Goyanes (Artistic Director) and Emika Abe (Managing Director) is supported by a core company of artists that holds itself to a high standard of artistic excellence. Woolly is relentless in its desire to take risks, experiment, innovate, interrogate, and create a radically inclusive community. Located in Washington, DC, Woolly Mammoth stands upon occupied, unceded territory: the ancestral homeland of the Nacotchtank whose descendants belong to the Piscataway peoples.