



For Immediate Release  
Monday, September 23, 2019  
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## **SPIT DAT BEGINS RESIDENCY AT WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY**

(Washington, DC) Since its establishment in 2009, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company's Connectivity Department has partnered with local community organizations to cultivate unique experiences designed to enhance, contextualize, and deepen audience engagement with the work on stage. This season, Woolly is deepening and expanding its relationships within the DC community through a pilot resident program with its recurring partner, **Spit Dat** starting in October 2019.

Co-hosted by founder **Drew Anderson**, known lovingly throughout DC's performing arts world as "Droopy the Broke Baller," and **Dwayne B!**, also known as the "Crochet Kingpin," **Spit Dat** is the longest-running open mic in the nation's capital. A profoundly intimate artistic and spiritual experience that has fought to remain a safe space through nearly two decades of societal changes, Spit Dat combines world-class talent with a living room vibe.

Described as "like therapy, but cheaper" and "like church, but with good people," Spit Dat has had a deep impact in the DC community. "I'm deeply honored to have fostered something that people treasure so much," says founder Drew Anderson. People have met lifelong friends, even spouses, at readings, and there are events around the country, and the world, that are inspired by Spit Dat. "We all have a goal of bringing people together by challenging their biases and perspectives, amplifying the voices of folks often unheard, and making space for all types to be. To simply be," says Dwayne B!, "These things make me feel joy to officially bring Spit Dat to Woolly Mammoth."

Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company's Connectivity Department has had the immense pleasure of partnering with Spit Dat on three spoken word performance events: *Dat Fuckshit: A Public Airing of Grievances* (2019), *Losing our Chains* (2017) and *Codeswitching: A Survival Guide* (2016). As Connectivity artists in residence at Woolly Mammoth, Spit Dat will occur monthly at Woolly's venue, and combine an open mic with 1-2 thoughtfully curated featured performers. The Woolly team is excited to share its expertise and resources with Spit Dat, from artistic development support to marketing and design that will increase the visibility of these incredible artists.

Political, powerful, and provocative, these performances have showcased some of the most compelling spoken word artists Washington, DC has to offer performing material that interrogates individual relationships to the world around us, and celebrates our collective humanity.

At a time when artists are uniquely positioned to open minds and change hearts in pursuit of equity and justice for all, Spit Dat serves the people of Washington, DC with dynamic artistry that explores some of the deepest and most challenging questions of our time. Spit Dat strives to become a professional development space for artists and poets while still creating and making space for artists to be, according to co-host Dwayne B!, the “aloof magical beings [they] are” and a partnership with Woolly Mammoth represents “a mutual celebration of artistry and change.”

Woolly Mammoth is beyond proud to continue to grow its partnership with Spit Dat and serve as a home for Spit Dat artists to develop and showcase their most daring, experimental, boundary breaking work – after all, artistic risk taking is in its DNA.

## **SCHEDULE**

**Spit Dat** will be at Woolly Mammoth monthly starting October 2019.

## **PERFORMANCE CALENDAR**

### **Woolly Mammoth Smith/Melton Rehearsal Hall**

October 7, 2019

November 4, 2019

December 9, 2019

January 6, 2020

February 3, 2020

March 2, 2020

## **TICKETS**

Free. Visit [woollymammoth.net/spit-dat](http://woollymammoth.net/spit-dat) to reserve free tickets.

## **JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

Facebook.com/WoollyMammothTC, Facebook.com/SpitDatDC

Twitter: @WoollyMammothTC, @SpitDatDC

Instagram: @woollymammothtc, @spitdatdc

## **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.

### **ABOUT SPIT DAT**

Spit Dat is the longest-running open mic in the nation's capital. A profoundly intimate artistic and spiritual experience which has fought to remain a safe space through nearly two decades of societal changes, Spit Dat combines world-class talent with a living room vibe. As much a "venue" as it is an "event", Spit Dat has won multiple awards for its contribution to the growth of generations of acclaimed international artists. But perhaps its most valued accolade lives in being renowned among its staunch community as no less than "Church".

### **ABOUT DREW ANDERSON**

A science teacher turned teaching artist, poet turned parodist, and marathon runner turned motivational speaker, Drew Anderson is as hard to define as he is to ignore. Known lovingly throughout DC's performing arts world as "Droopy the Broke Baller", Drew is founder and co-host of Spit Dat, the longest-running open mic in DC. Recipient of the prestigious DC Arts and Humanities Fellowship presented by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Drew has recently merged his decade-plus of artistic acumen and educational expertise to develop Spooof School, a dynamic arts education integration residency which teaches students of all ages how to make learning fun by "making fun" of their learning.

### **ABOUT DWAYNE B!**

Dwayne B! aka the "Crochet Kingpin" is a DC native poet, activist, breakdancer, and fashion designer. He is one of the hosts of DC's longest running open mic series, Spit Dat, as well as Host-Captain for Busboys and Poets' 450K location. In addition to featured readings at every Busboys and Poets location, SAGAfest Iceland 2015, Spirits and Lyrics NYC and Manassas, Woolly Mammoth Theater, and the C2EA "We Can End AIDS" march, Dwayne's short form poetry prowess led him to win the Best Haiku Award at the 2011 National Underground Spoken-Word Poetry Awards (NUSPA). His work to increase HIV awareness through spoken-word garnered recognition from the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, BBCAmerica, the Discovery Channel, and The Washington Post. Ultimately, his goal is to force his audience to feel. His recent collection of works, One Color Kaleidoscope, is a testament to self-definition and change. When not documenting his life through poetic meter, he can be found on the metro making scarves and hats, or singing karaoke.