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WOOLLY MAMMOTH ANNOUNCES SUMMER FESTIVAL AND A SNEAK PEEK AT SEASON 41

(Washington, DC) **Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company** is pleased to announce its first summer festival, **#NSFW: A SUMMER OF SEX AND BODY POSITIVITY**. In a three week long celebration Woolly is embracing body positivity and sexuality regardless of gender, age, or ability. Declaring, "No Shame From Woolly," the festival features Jacqueline Novak and Ryan J. Haddad, in celebrated autobiographical solo shows, and local drag artists #TeamHusband with the most dazzling QTBIPOC*-centered drag+ performances the District has to offer. **#NSFW: A SUMMER OF SEX AND BODY POSITIVITY** will run from July 14 – August 2, 2020.

"With Lizzo on repeat in my headphones, I have been incredibly inspired by the cultural shift towards body and sex positivity in our culture," says Artistic Director **Maria Manuela Goyanes**. "Summer has traditionally been a time for comedy at Woolly, so let's have our theater plug into the national conversation and marry the two with hilarity, originality, and complexity with the newly born #NSFW Festival. We will be presenting two shows and multiple special events throughout July and early August as an experiment in format and form, saturating our whole building at 641 D Street. Even at 40, Woolly knows how to be, ahem, stimulating..."

Jacqueline Novak's **GET ON YOUR KNEES** and Ryan J. Haddad's **HI, ARE YOU SINGLE?** will be presented simultaneously. JACQUELINE NOVAK: **GET ON YOUR KNEES**, a New York Times Critic's Pick, written and performed by comedian Jacqueline Novak, and produced by Natasha Lyonne (*Russian Doll*, *Orange is the New Black*) and comedian Mike Birbiglia, details the misadventures that led Jacqueline on her quest to become the Blow Job Queen. The solo show originally played a sold-out run in New York at the Cherry Lane Theatre and then transferred to the Lucille Lortel Theatre, where it received an extended run. **GET ON YOUR KNEES** is paired with Ryan J. Haddad's **HI, ARE YOU SINGLE?** which was recently seen at the Guthrie Theater. In **HI, ARE YOU SINGLE?** Ryan, an actor with cerebral palsy, navigates the complexities of love and intimacy in this charming solo performance.

It wouldn't be a summer of sex and body positivity without **#TEAMHUSBAND**, DC's premiere genderqueer real fake drag troupe, who will be bringing their QTBIPOC-centered drag+ show, **REST OF GAY DC DRAG SHOW**, to Woolly on Friday late nights.

As previously announced Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company is partnering with Shakespeare Theatre Company at the end of August, to bring St. Ann's Warehouse & Good Chance's production of **THE JUNGLE**, by Joe Murphy and Joe Robertson and co-directed by Tony Award winner Stephen Daldry (*The Crown*) and Justin Martin, to Penn Quarter, Aug 25 - Sept 13. Not only is this Woolly's first partnership with Shakespeare Theatre Company, but this international, theatrical experience is being brought to DC following sold-out runs in London's West End and New York. This "thrilling...ravishing...devastating" play (*The New York Times*) immerses the audience in the sights, sounds, and smells of Calais refugee camp "to astonishing emotional

effect" (*The New Yorker*). Subscribers to Woolly Mammoth will have exclusive access to tickets before general on-sale.

A Sneak Peek into the 2020-2021 Season

2020-2021 is a season of groundbreaking firsts at Woolly Mammoth, as it ushers in a new era led by Artistic Director Maria Manuela Goyanes and Managing Director Emika Abe. As a sneak preview we will be opening Woolly's 41st Season with the pre-Broadway production of Michael R. Jackson's hit musical, **A STRANGE LOOP**, directed by Stephen Brackett, choreographed by Raja Feather Kelly, and music directed by Rona Siddiqui. *A STRANGE LOOP* had its World Premiere at Playwrights Horizons produced in association with Page 73. As one of the first musicals in Woolly history, this blistering, mind-blowing new show follows a young artist at war with a host of demons — including the punishing thoughts in his own head.

"When I think about all the unexpected work Woolly could do, what's more unexpected than a Broadway-bound musical? This show is very special to me. When I was 25, and Michael R. Jackson was still in graduate school, I directed the first early readings of *A Strange Loop*. With this project, my past is becoming my present, and, in a way, my very own strange loop. This musical centers a black queer man whose experience stands in sharp relief to the more mainstream LGBTQ progress we've seen over the past decade. Woolly Mammoth will break into song with what I believe to be completely Woolly material – a bold show with nerve, replete with soaring and gut-wrenching show tunes." – **Maria Manuela Goyanes**

The words that greet audiences and artists alike upon walking into Woolly Mammoth's lobby articulate the values and vision so heavily embodied by our upcoming summer festival and 41st season; centering Woolly as "A national innovator for theatre, radically inclusive, a supportive home for artists, culture creators, risk-takers, anti-racist, a safe space, relentless in inquiry and experimentation." Subscriptions will go on sale when the rest of the 2020-21 season is announced in late April.

PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

#NSFW: A Summer of Sex and Body Positivity

JACQUELINE NOVAK: GET ON YOUR KNEES

Presented by Natasha Lyonne

Directed by John Early

Executive Producer Mike Birbiglia

July 14 - August 2, 2020

Comedian Jacqueline Novak's *GET ON YOUR KNEES* is the most high-brow show about blow jobs you'll ever see. Novak spins her material on the femininity of the penis and the stoicism of the vulva into an unexpectedly philosophical show that's part feminist outcry, part coming-of-age tale of triumph. Ira Glass calls it a "nearly Talmudic dissection of a subject. Really funny and just really like nothing else."

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I have seen the Muhammed Ali of comedy." - **John Mulaney**

*“Critic's Pick! Brilliant on the absurdity of having and being a thinking, feeling, desiring, body. Shrewd, explicit, though not exactly raunchy, this is the funniest show about Cartesian dualism you will see all year!” - **The New York Times***

*“I felt my teenage self seen and heard. I hope a lot of young women, older women, young men, older men, and also non-binary peeps of all ages see this show because it is funny and healing.” – **Ilana Glazer***

“Jacqueline Novak’s *GET ON YOUR KNEES* is the cornerstone of #NSFW. Jacqueline is a rising star who pokes at the often-tricky relationship women have with their bodies and sexuality, with a forensic and funny analysis of a supposed rite of passage with a certain male body part. Jacqueline is a fearless, intelligent, and powerfully subversive performer - a true Woolly artist.” – **Maria Manuela Goyanes**

HI, ARE YOU SINGLE?

Written and performed by Ryan J. Haddad

Co-Directed by Danny Sharron and Laura Savia

July 17-August 2, 2020

Ryan has a higher sex drive than you. He also has cerebral palsy. You can often find him on Grindr or at your local inaccessible gay bar. Join writer/performer Ryan J. Haddad on his search to find love. Or a date. Or at least a hookup. From encounters with drag queens to platonic lap dances, Ryan will guide you through the gay dating scene with his provocative take on intimacy, rejection, and judgment. His one request? Please bring an attractive male friend with you.

“I have wanted to introduce Ryan Haddad to the DMV since I got to Woolly. He is a captivating storyteller who charms anyone he meets within seconds. *HI, ARE YOU SINGLE?* fits perfectly into #NSFW as a complement to *GET ON YOUR KNEES* because it asks us to examine sexuality through the lens of a queer man with a disability. That in itself is a radical shift in perspective and one that I am thrilled to champion. Oh, and if you’d like to take him on a date, I’d be happy to set you up!” – **Maria Manuela Goyanes**

REST OF GAY DC DRAG SHOW

Created by #TeamHusband

July 24 and 31, 2020

Meet #TeamHusband, DC's premiere genderqueer real fake drag troupe. #TeamHusband produces QTBIPOC-centered drag+ shows showcasing the most sultry and surreal drag kings, queens, monsters, nonbinary performers, and other trans & queer performance artists the District has to offer. Radically silly and queer as heck, #TeamHusband shows are love letters to queer friendship, community, and camp. Come through, get your dollars out, and get ready for evening of pure delight. Absolutely no racism, anti-Blackness, transphobia, homophobia, ableism, fatphobia, or white gays clacking fans allowed.

“There’s no way #NSFW would feel complete without some fabulous DC artists. Welcome #TeamHusband as they take over Woolly with their stunning drag and burlesque performance parties. These artists truly embody what we want people to take away from #NSFW - the idea that every person, every body, every gender, every sexuality is gorgeous and deserving of physical and emotional love.” – ***Maria Manuela Goyanes***

THE JUNGLE

By Joe Murphy and Joe Robertson

Directed By Stephen Daldry and Justin Martin

Aug 25 - Sept 13, 2020

Co-Presented with Shakespeare Theatre Company

Welcome to The Jungle: a camp of stateless citizens outside Calais, a temporary home for thousands built from nothing at the crossroads of cultures and countries. Over a cup of chai, Safi, Salar, Okot, and a host of other residents share their stories. Laughing, weeping, fighting, and praying alongside each other, they dream of crossing the English Channel to begin a new life. Framed with "poignancy and power" (*The New York Times*), The Jungle is an extraordinary panorama of people caught up in a global crisis beyond their control, originally drawn from and performed by actual citizens of the camp.

A Sneak Peek at the 2020-2021 season

A STRANGE LOOP

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Michael R. Jackson

Directed by Stephen Brackett

Choreographed by Raja Feather Kelly

Music Directed by Rona Siddiqui

Sept 15 – October 25, 2020

Usher is a Black, queer writer working a job he hates while writing his original musical... about a Black, queer writer working a job he hates while writing his original musical. Michael R. Jackson’s blistering, mind-blowing, new musical follows a young artist at war with a host of demons — including the punishing thoughts in his head — in an attempt to capture and understand his own strange loop.

Time Out New York #1

TheaterMania #1

New York Magazine/Vulture #1

New York Times Critics Pick

TICKETS

#NSFW Festival Passes are \$69 and single tickets start at \$24. Passes and single tickets are available online at woollymammoth.net, by phone at (202) 393-3939, via email at tickets@woollymammoth.net, or in person at the Box Office, located at 641 D Street NW.

Season Subscriptions will be available for purchase in late April. Single tickets for *THE JUNGLE* will go on sale later this summer, but due to limited capacity, subscribing to Woolly or STC is the only way to guarantee you can see the show!

Patrons who are 30-years-old and younger may, at any time, purchase Section C tickets for \$20 to any performance. There are also discounts available for educators, first responder men and women and active US military personnel, spouses, and veterans. More information is available at woollymammoth.net.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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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.

ABOUT SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY

Led by Artistic Director Simon Godwin and Executive Director Chris Jennings, the Shakespeare Theatre Company (STC) is synonymous with artistic excellence. STC strives to make classical theatre more accessible to audiences in and around the nation’s capital by expanding the definition of “classic” to include playwrights previously excluded from the canon while renewing its commitment to high-quality, exhilarating, inclusive theatre. A leader in arts education, STC has a dynamic range of initiatives that teach and excite learners of all ages. Located in downtown Washington, D.C., STC performs in two theatres and also hosts presentations from outstanding local performing arts groups and nationally renowned organizations.

*Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, People of Color