



For Immediate Release
Tuesday, August 20th, 2019
Press Contact: Timmy Metzner
timmy.metzner@woollymammoth.net

WOOLLY MAMMOTH ANNOUNCES WOOLLY: FULLY OPEN – A 40TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND OPEN HOUSE

(Washington, DC) After being dark for the summer of 2019, **Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company** is re-opening their newly revamped lobby space with an event titled *Woolly: Fully Open*. This event is free, open to all, and will include a land dedication by members of the Piscataway community as well as a launch party for their 40th Birthday. This official celebration with the public will occur on Sunday, September 15, 2019 with a land acknowledgement ceremony followed by an open house from 2:00 – 4:30pm.

On June 24, 2019 Woolly broke ground on a lobby renovation with major support from **The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Kay Kendall, Chair and Phil Mendelson, Chairman of the DC City Council**. This lobby update was designed by architects **Perkins Eastman DC** with the goal of transforming the existing lobby into a more accessible and community-focused public space in the Penn Quarter neighborhood of DC. The desire was to create a lobby that allowed for more than a pre-show meeting location; but rather an open place to gather, work, socialize, and commune any time of day.

Woolly Mammoth Artistic Director **Maria Manuela Goyanes** says “I want to thank Barbara Mullenex and the team at **Perkins Eastman DC** for leading the design process, and creating a space that feels more closely connected to the thought-provoking, form-busting, and risky plays that we produce. I’m also endlessly grateful to the **DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities** for making all of this possible; especially in time for the launch of my inaugural season. As Woolly celebrates our 40th year in Washington, DC we felt a desire to have our artistic values instilled into our physical space in more transparent ways. We strive to be a radically inclusive community and an anti-racist organization that welcomes and affirms every single person. The lobby should reflect that, and serve as a reminder to our staff, artists, and guests each time they enter the space.”

Woolly: Fully Open will start with a land recognition and dedication ceremony led by members of the Piscataway community. This ceremony will re-dedicate the renovated space with language developed in consultation with **Dr. Gabrielle Tayac** that says “*Woolly Mammoth acknowledges that this theatre 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.*”

Following the ceremony there will be a launch party with performances by local artists **Uptown Boyz**, an intertribal Powwow drum group, and **Crank LuKongo**, an Afro Go-Go Roots Music collective, in commemoration of the shared histories between the Piscataway and the enslaved peoples of African descent. Throughout the event, guests may purchase exclusive discounts on subscriptions and tickets to Season 40 shows. Light refreshments will also be served.

SCHEDULE

Woolly: Fully Open... takes place at Woolly Mammoth Theatre (641 D St NW) on Sunday, September 15, 2019 from 2:00 – 4:30pm. The event is free and open to the public

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Facebook.com/WoollyMammothTC

Twitter: @WoollyMammothTC

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 leadership of María Manuela Goyanes (Artistic 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 PERKINS EASTMEN DC

Founded in 2011, Perkins Eastman DC is a dynamic design practice with diverse expertise in the design of community centers, government buildings, educational facilities, housing, and large scale mixed-use projects that make up the District of Columbia. Individually, the Principals and staff of Perkins Eastman DC have been at the forefront of new developments in the field of education and community design for more than two decades in Washington, DC and abroad. With expertise in architecture, master planning, urban design, historic preservation, and adaptive reuse, they are able to assist communities on a comprehensive range of projects. This comprehensive and future-oriented approach to community and educational design enables Perkins Eastman DC to create flexible, state-of-the-art community and learning environments.

ABOUT UPTOWN BOYZ

The Uptown Boyz is an intertribal Powwow drum group based in Washington, DC. Founded in 2017 in response to the local Native community's calls for representation through music. They are an indigenous group, humbly learning and teaching as they go.

ABOUT CRANK LuKONGO

In 2013, Crank LuKongo was conceived by Washington, DC born percussionist, drummer, producer, songwriter, and actor, Matt Swamp Guinee. The Crank Lu’Kongo collective features a variety of well-established musicians in indie and world music genres, including co-producers and contributing artists David Blackwell (guitar, bass, keys, vocals) and Charles Road. Keith "Lazy K" Lofton (guitar, bass, keys, vocals). Other Musical contributors include, Andre LaSalle (guitar), Brian Clark (percussion), Desi Hyson (keys), Donald Tillery (trumpet), Frankie Addison (saxophone), Georges Koakou (keys), I'la Vibe (vocals), Izabella Sparrow (vocals), Junior Marvin (lead guitar), Kelvin Montgomery (trombone), Mighty Moe Haggins (congas), Nala

Shabam (keys), Phillippe Lemaire (keys), Ron Winters (guitar), Samadhi (vocals), Tuff Lion (guitar, vocals, bass, percussion, keys), and Warren Pedersen (bass).