

For Immediate Release

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Folger SHAKESPEARE
LIBRARY

**WORLD PREMIERE FILM ADAPTATION OF *WHERE WE BELONG* BY MADELINE SAYET
FILMING NOW AT WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY AND PRODUCED IN
ASSOCIATION WITH FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY**

STREAMING DIGITALLY JUNE 2021

(Washington, DC) **Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company** has partnered with **Folger Shakespeare Library** to produce **Madeline Sayet's** solo show, ***WHERE WE BELONG*** directed by **Mei Ann Teo**. *WHERE WE BELONG* is filming now at Woolly Mammoth and will be available for digital streaming **June 2021**.

In 2015, Mohegan theatre-maker Madeline Sayet travels to England to pursue a PhD in Shakespeare. Madeline finds a country that refuses to acknowledge its ongoing role in colonialism, just as the Brexit vote threatens to further disengage the UK from the wider world. In this intimate and exhilarating solo piece, Madeline echoes a journey to England braved by Native ancestors in the 1700s following treatise betrayals – and forces us to consider what it means to belong in an increasingly globalized world.

"In September 2019, in consultation with the brilliant scholar Dr Gabrielle Tayac, Woolly etched a land acknowledgment to the Nacotchtank and Piscataway peoples into the concrete foundation of our building. This represented a commitment to honor our local Native community as well as present, produce, and support Indigenous artists in the theatre," says **Maria Manuela Goyanes, Artistic Director of Woolly Mammoth**. "Madeline Sayet's *WHERE WE BELONG* blew me away when I first encountered it. Her openness to sharing her journey across the sea, into the sky, and back home to Mohegan is a deep, insightful, and often very funny, revelation. Woolly and the Folger are committed to as many people experiencing this piece as possible, and creating this film version is one way to create that kind of radical access."

"Madeline Sayet's *WHERE WE BELONG* is a powerful piece that asks audiences to 'think again' about the stories Shakespeare tells about indigenous people and the way we contend with those stories today," says **Mike Witmore, Director of the Folger Shakespeare Library**. "The Folger is proud to partner with Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in the exploration of this important topic."

WHERE WE BELONG features **Playwright Madeline Sayet** and premiered at Shakespeare's Globe in London in 2019 as part of Border Crossings' ORIGINS Festival, the UK's only large-

scale multidisciplinary festival of Indigenous arts and culture. While at Woolly Mammoth, Madeline has been adapting the original piece for the digital realm with **Director Mei Ann Teo**.

WHERE WE BELONG will also be featured as part of **The International Festival of Arts & Ideas** 2021 Festival season, themed around IMAGINE. The performance will be featured as part of the Festival's key programming, available on-demand to virtual audiences June 24-27. For more information, go to www.artidea.org.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

WHERE WE BELONG will be available for streaming on demand June 2021.

TICKETS

Pre-Sale tickets will be available on June 1, starting at \$15.99. Tickets can be reserved online at woollymammoth.net, by phone at (202) 393-3939 or via email at tickets@woollymammoth.net. In person purchases are not available.

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ABOUT WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY

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.

ABOUT FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY

Folger Shakespeare Library is the world's largest Shakespeare collection, the ultimate resource for exploring Shakespeare and his world. The Folger welcomes millions of visitors online and in person. With the Folger, you can experience the power of performance, the wonder of exhibitions, and the excitement of pathbreaking research. In addition to being the world's largest Shakespeare collection, the Folger is home to major collections of other rare Renaissance books, manuscripts, and works of art. Located a block from the US Capitol, the Folger serves a wide audience of scholars, visitors, teachers, students, families, and theater- and concert-goers. Join us online, on the road, or in Washington, DC. www.folger.edu

ABOUT MADELINE SAYET

Madeline Sayet (she/her) is a Mohegan theatre maker who believes the stories we pass down inform our collective possible futures. She has been honored as a Forbes 30 Under 30 in Hollywood & Entertainment, TED Fellow, MIT Media Lab Director's Fellow, National Directing Fellow, Drama League Director-In-Residence, NCAIED Native American 40 Under 40, and a recipient of The White House Champion of Change Award from President Obama. She serves as the Executive Director of the Yale Indigenous Performing Arts Program (YIPAP), Co-Artistic Director of Red Eagle Soaring: Native Youth Theatre, and is known throughout the field for her work promoting indigenous voices and decolonizing systems. Recent directing work includes: *Tlingit Christmas Carol* (Perseverance Theatre), *Midsummer Night's Dream* (South Dakota Shakespeare), *Henry IV* (Connecticut Repertory Theatre), *Whale Song* (Perseverance Theatre), *She Kills Monsters* (Connecticut Repertory Theatre), *As You Like It* (Delaware Shakespeare), *The Winter's Tale* (Amerinda/HERE Arts), *Poppea* (Krannert Center, Illinois), *The Magic Flute* (Glimmerglass), *Macbeth* (NYC Parks), *Miss Lead* (59e59). This fall she joins the English Dept at Arizona State University with the Arizona Center for Renaissance and Medieval Studies.

www.madelinesayet.com

ABOUT MEI ANN TEO

Mei Ann Teo (they/she) is a queer immigrant from Singapore making theatre & film at the intersection of artistic/civic/contemplative practice. As a director/devisor/dramaturg, they create across genres, including music theatre, intermedial participatory work, reimagining classics, and documentary theatre. Teo's international work includes Belgium's Festival de Liege (*Lyrics From Lockdown*, "Truly polished, meaningful and entertaining" -New York Times), Edinburgh International Fringe (*MiddleFlight*, "Stunning" -Scotsman), Beijing International Festival (*Labyrinth* - Top 8 in Beijing News). *Dim Sum Warriors the Musical* by Colin Goh and Yen Yen Woo, composed by Pulitzer Prize winner Du Yun for national China twenty-five city tour, Jillian Walker's world premiere *SKiNFoLK: An American Show* at the Bushwick Starr (NYTimes Critics Pick, NYMag's matrix "Highbrow and Brilliant"), Madeline Sayet's *Where We Belong* at Shakespeare's Globe. Teo is the Visiting Professor of Directing at Carnegie Mellon University and the Artistic Director of Musical Theatre Factory.