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www.mixedblood.com

Mixed Blood Theatre Announces 35th Season Anchored by an Intimate and Irreverent AVENUE Q

Mixed Blood Theatre today announced plans for its 35th mainstage season featuring an intimate production of the Broadway people-and-puppet blockbuster *Avenue Q*, a new adaptation of Isabel Allende's epic *House of the Spirits*, a contemporary snapshot of upper middle class African America transporting the characters from *A Raisin in the Sun* into 2010, and a world premiere from Aditi Brennan Kapil.

"Our conviction to be predictably unpredictable, our belief in the power of theater to model a successful global village, and our love of show biz have led us to these excitingly diverse 35th season selections," said Artistic Director Jack Reuler.

In addition to its mainstage season, the company will expand its regional touring program (made possible by Legacy Amendment funding through the Minnesota State Arts Board), with five shows travelling to 100 communities of the Upper Midwest. Through the company's "On the Job" program, Mixed Blood will also collaborate with Health Partners to create four original plays addressing health care disparities for Latino, Hmong, Somali, and African American Minnesotans.

And Mixed Blood teams with Bedlam Theatre to showcase the arts and performance venues in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood and to train a professional company of young adult East African actors.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets go on sale June 9, 2010 at 612-338-6131 or at www.mixedblood.com. Four show season passes begin at only \$30. Mixed Blood's special Ethno Metro Pass includes all four Mixed Blood shows PLUS tickets to other productions around town including *Next to Normal* at the Ordway and other shows at Mu Performing Arts and the Children's Theatre Company.

MAINSTAGE SEASON

A COOL DRINK A WATER

By Thomas W. Jones II

Directed by Marion McClinton

September 17–October 10, 2010 (previews September 16)

Playwright Thomas W. Jones II borrows a title from Maya Angelou ("Just give me a cool drink of water 'fore I die") and the characters from *A Raisin in the Sun*, transporting them

into a 2010 comedy. The now-upper middle class Youngs remain the lone African American family in a gentrified neighborhood. From 21st century feminism and a disillusioned return to Africa, to aspirations of hip hop stardom and surprising struggles with affluence, comic banter flies fast in this provocative contemporary snapshot of African America.

HOUSE OF THE SPIRITS/LA CASA DE LOS ESPÍRITUS

Adapted by Caridad Svich from the novel by Isabel Allende

Directed by Marcela Lorca

Music by Victor Zupanc

October 22–November 14, 2010 (preview October 21)

The often unjust politics of Latin America play out through three generations of the Trueba family in Caridad Svich's adaptation of the epic, witty, and unforgettable novel by Isabel Allende. Marcela Lorca (*Caroline or Change*, Guthrie Theater) directs a bilingual cast of ten in this song-filled theatrical feast, performed in Spanish and English (accessible to all via projected translations).

AGNES, UNDER THE BIG TOP

World Premiere written and directed by Aditi Brennan Kapil

February 18–March 6, 2011 (preview February 17)

The circus comes to town in Aditi Brennan Kapil's new play, selected for the National Endowment for the Arts' 2009 Distinguished New Play Development Project. This funny and powerful adventure imagines the intersecting lives of immigrants in a U.S. city. Set against the subterranean rhythms of a subway train, an itinerant subway busker, a Liberian home care worker, a former Bulgarian ringmaster and his wife, and an Indian call center escapee find and redefine themselves in today's America.

AVENUE Q

Book and Lyrics by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx

Directed by Jack Reuler

March 25–May 1, 2011 (previews March 24)

Irreverent and hilarious, the disparate residents of New York's Avenue Q represent the global village in this people-and-puppet musical comedy. After a six-year Broadway run, worldwide tours, and a year in Las Vegas, this show takes on a whole new vantage in Mixed Blood's intimate theater. An ensemble of familiar characters—therapist Christmas Eve, comedian/caterer Brian, roommates Nicky and Rod, Kate Monster, Princeton, Gary Coleman, and Lucy T. Slut—deliver the *Avenue Q* classics “Everyone's A Little Bit Racist,” “If You Were Gay,” and, of course, “The Internet Is For Porn.”

REGIONAL TOURING

For the 31st year Mixed Blood will take its mission and vision on tour throughout the Upper Midwest to schools, community centers, colleges, churches, detention centers, and more, with 200 performances of five productions. Via support from the Legacy Amendment, each production will have one free performance in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood and subsidized public performances in communities throughout Greater Minnesota.

THEORY OF MIND by Ken LaZebnik; directed by Jack Reuler

Oct 18–Nov 14

Many years of many therapies, gluten-free diets, and a determined mother have prepared high school senior Bill, diagnosed with Asperger’s Syndrome, with the social skills to manage an evening out with a young woman. Bill’s advantages and challenges on the autism spectrum make for an evening of eye-opening adventure.

AFRICAN AMERICA written and directed by Warren C. Bowles

Jan 10–Feb 13

The unexpected and magical appearance of an African man leads a modern interracial couple to a better understanding and appreciation of the contemporary African diaspora, especially the immigrant experience of those coming to Minnesota from Liberia, Ethiopia and Somalia.

DR. KING’S DREAM created and directed by Warren C. Bowles

Jan 10–Feb 13

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. championed pluralism in the U.S. in ways that transformed America (and inspired the creation of the Mixed Blood Theatre). Drawn from his books, sermons, letters and speeches, this bio-drama celebrates the courage, charisma and leadership of the nation’s great civil rights architect.

DAUGHTERS OF AFRICA by Syl Jones; directed by Warren C. Bowles

Jan 10–Feb 13

From slavery to Michelle Obama, this musical-driven time travel story celebrates three centuries in the lives of African American women, commemorating the accomplishments of a greatly under-appreciated segment of American society.

MINNECANOS by Joe Minjares; directed by Raúl Ramos

Apr 11–May 8

A Chicano centenarian uses the memorabilia of his life to introduce his great-granddaughter to their common Mexican heritage in this 45-minute musical. Fueled by lively *corridos* (story-songs), moving reconciliations among the family’s four generations, and ample humor, *Minnecanos* illustrates 100 years of Latino influence.

MIXED BLOOD ON THE JOB

Mixed Blood’s customized workplace theatre, *Mixed Blood On The Job*, will work with Health Partners to create four tailor-made theatrical events to address cultural disparities in health care and to facilitate access to better health care for Latino, African American, Hmong, and Somali Minnesotans.

VOICES OF CEDAR RIVERSIDE

Mixed Blood will collaborate with Bedlam Theatre (with support from the Minnesota State Arts Board) to showcase the arts and performance venues in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood for its residents. The project includes training a professional company of young adult East African actors, creating a play about, for, and with Somali residents of the West Bank, and offering free tickets and performances throughout the community for a year.

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