



PRESS RELEASE

MOSAIC YOUTH THEATRE OF DETROIT

610 ANTOINETTE STREET | DETROIT MI | 48202

TEL: 313-872-6910 | FAX: 313-872-6920 | WWW.MOSAICDETROIT.ORG

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Contact: Nikki LaVallee
Sales Manager
313-872-6910 ext. 4021
nlavallee@mosaicdetroit.org

Mosaic's Annual *Tesserae One Act Play Festival* goes Greek!

Detroit, October 5th, 2009 - Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit takes the stage October 16th-18th in the *Tesserae One Act Play Festival* presented by Quicken Loans at the General Motors Mosaic Theatre. Elements of Classic Greek theatre mix with modern themes and style in this trio of short plays by three of America's best contemporary playwrights. The centerpiece of the evening's performance is William Mastrosimone's provocative contemporary drama about school violence, *Bang, Bang, You're Dead*.

This brutally honest play follows the aftermath of a school shooting – what Mastrosimone calls “*the national tragedy of kids killing kids*.” It combines a naturalistic acting style with a standard Greek chorus as it explores its message of opportunities lost. Due to depictions of violence, this play may be inappropriate for children under 12.

In its seventh year, the *Tesserae One Act Play Festival* opens with Christopher Durang's *Medea*, a sharp, comical take on the traditional Greek tragedy as a mother of two plots revenge on her husband. A modern adaptation of *Metamorphoses* by Mary Zimmerman with it's larger than life Greek gods and high-stakes plot rounds out the evening's performance.

“*This year's Tesserae is part of our preparation for this spring's Gospel at Colonus*” said Kate Peckham, Mosaic's Co-Artistic Director/Director of Acting Programs. “*Gospel is an adaptation of the Greek play Oedipus at Colonus but is set in modern times Pentecostal Church. Tesserae delves deeply into timeless issues: life, death, regret, betrayal and greed but in a lyrical and modern framework*”.

Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit has received generous support from Quicken Loans as presenting sponsor of the 2009 *Tesserae One Act Play Festival*. Performances are at 8pm on Friday, October 16th and Saturday, October 17th and at 4pm on Sunday, October 18th. All tickets are \$8 and can be purchased in advance by calling 313-872-6910 or visiting www.mosaicdetroit.org. Tickets will also be available at the door.

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Recently named *Best-Managed Nonprofit* by *Crain's Detroit Business*, Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit is a national model for youth development through the arts. Mosaic's mission is to empower young people to maximize their potential through professional performing arts training and the creation of first-rate theatrical and musical art. Mosaic's all-teen performances have toured Africa, Asia, Europe and the U.S., and have been featured on NBC's *Today Show*, NPR's *All Things Considered*, and was the subject of the Michigan Emmy Award®-winning PBS documentary, *And They Flew: The Story of Mosaic Youth Theatre*. For more information about Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit visit www.mosaicdetroit.org.