



For Immediate Release

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**WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS *AMERICAN UTOPIAS*
BY MIKE DAISEY**

**MASTER STORYTELLER ARTFULLY WEAVES TOGETHER
THREE STORYLINES EXPLORING AMERICAN VISIONS OF UTOPIA**

(Washington, DC) **Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company** is thrilled to welcome back the critically acclaimed team of **Mike Daisey** (creator and performer) and **Jean-Michele Gregory** (director) and their hilariously riveting *American Utopias*, March 25–April 21, 2013.

Mike Daisey takes us all over the map to pursue the story: from Disney World and its nostalgic theme park perfection, to the drug-fueled anarchic excesses of Burning Man, to Zuccotti Park, where in the unlikeliest place the Occupy Wall Street movement was born. Gun-play, giant glittery dildos, raving animatronic presidents, and brutal police actions come together to paint the landscape of our new American dream.

American Utopias began at Woolly last October and, since its inception, has been presented in sold-out runs in New York, Boston, Chicago, and beyond. *The Chicago Sun-Times* calls *American Utopias*, “enthraling and supremely theatrical”. *The Boston Globe* raves, “Hilarious, raunchy, and at times profound.” And, *The New York Times* has called **Mike Daisey**, “the master storyteller—one of the finest solo performers of his generation.”

“**Mike Daisey** has developed a special relationship with Washington audiences by always challenging us to make unexpected connections and to see our world in new ways,” says Woolly Artistic Director Howard Shalwitz. “*American Utopias* asks how our nation, which began with Utopian zeal, continues to nourish or to squash the Utopian impulse today. I’m honored to welcome Mike and Jean-Michele back for their fifth show at Woolly—one of their most captivating.”

“It is such a pleasure to return to Woolly with one of our most provocative pieces,” said **Mike Daisey**. “We’re delighted to bring a story to our nation’s capital that asks dangerous questions about what it means to publicly assemble, how we negotiate with power, and how we tell ourselves the story of the society we want to live in.”

Woolly Mammoth’s Season 33, themed *My Roots, My Revolution*, includes a group of unforgettable characters who choose whether to embrace their legacies, run from them, or invent a whole new future. Works include Kristoffer Diaz’s *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* (Sept 3–Oct 7), Mia Chung’s *You for Me for You* (Nov 5–Dec 2), Danai Gurira’s *The*

Convert (Feb 13–Mar 10), **Mike Daisey's *American Utopias*** (Mar 25–Apr 21), Aaron Posner's *Stupid Fucking Bird* (May 27–June 23), and The Second City's *America All Better!!* (July 9–Aug 4). This holiday season featured Shenoah Allen and Mark Chavez's *The Pajama Men: In The Middle of No One* (Dec 11–Jan 6).

ABOUT THE CREATOR AND PERFORMER

Mike Daisey has been called “the master storyteller” and “one of the finest solo performers of his generation” by *The New York Times* for his groundbreaking monologues which weave together autobiography, gonzo journalism, and unscripted performance to tell hilarious and heartbreaking stories that cut to the bone, exposing secret histories and unexpected connections. His controversial work, *The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs*, was recognized as one of the year's best theater pieces by *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *Seattle Times*, *Seattle Weekly*, *San Jose Mercury News*, and *The San Francisco Bay Guardian*.

As a playwright, his transcript of *The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs* was downloaded over 100,000 times in the first week it was made available. Under a revolutionary open license it has seen more than forty productions around the world and been translated into six languages. The first Chinese production opened last year in Beijing, and will tour to Hong Kong and Shenzhen this year.

Since his first monologue in 1997, Daisey has created over fifteen monologues, including the critically-acclaimed *The Last Cargo Cult*, the controversial *How Theater Failed America*, the twenty-four-hour feat *All the Hours in the Day*, the unrepeatably series *All Stories Are Fiction*, the four-part epic *Great Men of Genius*, and the international sensation *21 Dog Years*. Other titles include *If You See Something Say Something*, *Barring the Unforeseen*, *Invincible Summer*, *Monopoly!*, *Tongues Will Wag*, *I Miss the Cold War*, and *Teching in India*.

He has performed in venues on five continents, ranging from Off-Broadway at the Public Theater to remote islands in the South Pacific, from the Sydney Opera House to an abandoned theater in post-Communist Tajikistan. He's been a guest on *Real Time with Bill Maher*, the *Late Show with David Letterman*, a longtime host and storyteller for *The Moth*, as well as a commentator and contributor to *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The Daily Beast*, *WIRED*, *Vanity Fair*, *Slate*, *Salon*, *NPR*, and the *BBC*. In a brief, meteoric career with *This American Life*, his two shows are the most listened to and downloaded episodes of that program's eighteen-year history. He is currently at work on his second book, an anthology of his monologues, and he stars in the Lawrence Krauser feature *Horrible Child*. He has been nominated for the Outer Critics Circle Award, two Drama League Awards, and is the recipient of the Bay Area Critics Circle Award, five Seattle Times Footlight Awards, the Sloan Foundation's Galileo Prize, and a MacDowell Fellowship.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Jean-Michele Gregory works as a director, editor, and dramaturg, focusing on extemporaneous theatrical works that live in the moment they are told. Working primarily with solo artists, for over a decade she has been Mike Daisey's chief collaborator, directing his monologues at venues across the globe including the Public Theater, the Sydney Opera House, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre, the Spoleto Festival, T:BA Festival, Under the Radar Festival, and many more. She has also directed New York storyteller Martin Dockery (*Wanderlust*, *The Surprise*), as well as author and performer Suzanne Morrison (*Yoga*

Bitch, Optimism). Her productions have received the Bay Area Critics Circle Award (*Great Men of Genius*), nominations from the Drama League and Outer Critics Circle (*If You See Something Say Something*), and five Seattle Times Footlight Awards (*21 Dog Years*, *The Ugly American*, *Monopoly!*, *The Last Cargo Cult*, and *The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs*).

American Utopias runs March 25-April 21; Tuesdays–Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 2pm and 8pm (March 30 at 8pm only), and Sundays at 2pm (March 31 at 7pm). Monday and Tuesday, March 25 and 26 will be Pay-What-You-Can performances beginning at 8pm.

TICKETS

Tickets for **American Utopias** start at \$35, and can be purchased through the Woolly Mammoth Box Office at **202-393-3939**, online at **www.woollymammoth.net**, or in person at 641 D Street, NW (7th & D). For directions and parking information, please visit **www.woollymammoth.net**.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 25 8pm PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

March 26 8pm PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

March 27 8pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

March 28 8pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

March 29 8pm OPENING/PRESS NIGHT of *American Utopias*

March 30 8pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

March 31 7pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

April 2 8pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

April 3 8pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

April 4 8pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

April 5 8pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

April 6 2pm and 8pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

April 7 2pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

April 9 8pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

April 10 8pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

April 11 8pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

April 12 8pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

April 13 2pm and 8pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

April 14 2pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

April 16 8pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

April 17 8pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

April 18 8pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

April 19 8pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

April 20 2pm and 8pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

April 21 2pm PERFORMANCE of *American Utopias*

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ABOUT WOOLLY

Now in its 33rd Season, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company continues to hold its place at the leading edge of American theatre. Acknowledged as “one of the most influential outposts for the best new American plays” (*The Washington Post*), and “known for its productions of innovative new plays” (*The New York Times*), Woolly Mammoth is a national leader in the development of new works, and one of the best known and most influential mid-sized theatres in America.

www.woollymammoth.net

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