



**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Anneliese DeDiemar

Marketing and Communications Manager

202-349-9803

anneliese@woollymammoth.net

## **WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS SOLO EXHIBITION BY SONG BYEOK, FORMER NORTH KOREAN PROPAGANDA PAINTER**

**WORLD-RENOWNED POP ART— INCLUDING PIECES NOT YET SEEN BY THE PUBLIC—  
DISPLAYED DURING WORLD PREMIERE PRODUCTION OF *YOU FOR ME FOR YOU***

(Washington, DC) In partnership with *Sandbrush, Inc.*, **Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company** will present a solo exhibit by pop artist Song Byeok in its lobby during the theatre's world premiere production of ***You for Me for You*** by Mia Chung, November 5-December 2, 2012.

Over a dozen works of art, including four new acrylic paintings never before seen by the public will be displayed, each available for sale. In addition, Song will premiere two new pieces, which he produced specifically for the Woolly Mammoth exhibit. All proceeds will go directly to Song Byeok.

"We are thrilled to be hosting Song Byeok here in DC in association with our world premiere of ***You For Me For You***," says Woolly Connectivity Director Jocelyn Prince. "Pairing art from two different disciplines— theatre and visual arts—both examining similar themes and real world implications, is an exciting and holistic way to provide our audiences with an unparalleled and inspiring experience."

Once an Official State Propaganda Artist of North Korea, Song's faith in Kim Jong-il was ultimately betrayed when famine struck in the 1990s. Millions of people, including Song's father, mother, and sister, perished. Song himself endured brutal torture at the hands of the regime he once praised in his work. His crime: attempting to cross into China to find food. Inspired by the memory of his parents and his awareness of the reality inside North Korea, Song now paints acrylic pieces dedicated to promoting freedom and inspiring downtrodden people across the globe. Major international media—including *CNN*, *ArtInfo*, *BBC*, and *Al Jazeera*—have chronicled Song's emergence as a satirist of oppressive regimes and champion of universal human rights. According to Song Byeok, his journey to artistic freedom will end once he is able to showcase his work in Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea.

The exhibit is free and open to the public during Woolly Mammoth Box Office hours Monday through Friday, 10am – 6pm; Saturday & Sunday 12 – 6pm. No ticket is required for entry.

Woolly Mammoth will host Song in DC from November 3-15. During his time in DC, he will be making appearances at American University, the Corcoran College of Art and Design, and the University of the District of Columbia, and elsewhere. Additional community engagement activities are featured below.

To learn more about Song Byeok, please visit [www.songbyeok.com](http://www.songbyeok.com).

## **ABOUT THE PLAY**

The world premiere ***You for Me for You*** by Mia Chung, directed by Yury Urnov, is a moving comic fantasy about two North Korean sisters who, facing starvation at the hands of a dizzyingly corrupt regime, make a bargain with a smuggler to flee to the United States. When one of the sisters is too weak to make the treacherous crossing, the other sister makes a promise to race across time and space to save her. With deep heart and surprising humor, ***You for Me for You*** both delves into our imagined picture of North Korea and subverts the American fantasy of the immigrant experience.

***You for Me for You*** is the first production to be supported by Woolly Mammoth's innovative fundraising effort, **Free the Beast!**, which was publicly launched this past May. **Free the Beast!** is raising \$4 million to support the production of 25 new plays over the next ten years. Some will be commissioned from scratch; others developed from early drafts. All will be given the time and tending they need by to reach maturity, drawing from a menu of support including commissioning, research enhancement, readings and workshops, larger casts, extra rehearsals, and increased technical resources. Most importantly, each will receive full productions on Woolly Mammoth's main stage.

**Free the Beast!** support for ***You for Me for You*** included a completion commission for playwright Mia Chung, a four-week workshop presentation incorporating music and movement/choreography with Drama Desk and Obie Award-winning Ma-Yi Theater Company in New York City, and a three-day script development workshop and extra rehearsal week at Woolly Mammoth.

***You for Me for You*** runs November 5 – December 2, 2012; Wednesdays–Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 3pm and 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm and 7pm. Monday, November 5 will be a Pay-What-You-Can performance beginning at 8pm.

Woolly Mammoth's Season 33 has been titled ***My Roots, My Revolution***. The season 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 11 – Mar 10), Mike Daisey's *American Utopias* (Mar 25 – Apr 21), and Aaron Posner's *Stupid Fucking Bird* (May 27 – June 23). Coming to Woolly this holiday season is Shenoah Allen and Mark Chavez's *The Pajama Men: In The Middle of No One* (Dec 11 – Jan 6).

## **TICKETS**

Tickets for ***You for Me for You*** start at \$35, and can be purchased through the Woolly Mammoth Box Office at **202-393-3939**, online at [www.woollymammoth.net](http://www.woollymammoth.net), or in person at 641 D Street, NW (7<sup>th</sup> & D). For directions and parking information, please visit [www.woollymammoth.net](http://www.woollymammoth.net).

## **SONG BYEOK APPEARANCES**

### **A Special Presentation by Song Byeok**

**In Association with the Corcoran College of Art + Design**

**Monday, November 5 at 1pm**

Frances and Armand Hammer Auditorium, Corcoran College of Art + Design  
500 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW

The event is free and open to the public.

RSVP: [www.corcoran.edu/exhibitions-events/visiting-artists/upcoming](http://www.corcoran.edu/exhibitions-events/visiting-artists/upcoming)

The Department of Fine Arts, Corcoran College of Art + Design, will host Song Byeok for a Visiting Artist lecture for students on Monday, November 5 at 1 p.m. in the Corcoran's Frances and Armand Hammer Auditorium. The Corcoran College of Art + Design was founded as a school of art in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year accredited college of art and design. The College is one of the few in the nation whose educational model includes an integral relationship with a museum, fostering the talent of the next generation of artists. For more information about the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design, visit [www.corcoran.org](http://www.corcoran.org).

### **Election Night Special Performance of *You for Me for You***

**Tuesday, November 6**

***Performance, 8pm; Party, 9:30pm***

All tickets for this performance are \$20.

Following the *You for Me for You* performance, Woolly will provide live-streaming of CNN's coverage of the 2012 Presidential Election results as they come in. Politically-themed refreshments and party favors will be provided. Mix and mingle with playwright Mia Chung.

### **Happy Hour with the Sejong Society of Washington DC**

**Wednesday, November 7 at 6pm**

*Woolly Lower Lobby*

RSVP: [bit.ly/Typ2zW](http://bit.ly/Typ2zW)

Join the Sejong Society of Washington, DC for a young professional's networking happy hour to celebrate the world premiere of *You for Me for You*. Mix and mingle with contemporary artist Song Byeok and playwright Mia Chung. The Sejong Society of Washington, DC is an all-volunteer, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that seeks to educate, inspire, and build the next generation of Korea specialists. The Sejong Society promotes education, leadership, and understanding of domestic and foreign policy issues related to the Korean peninsula. To learn more about the Sejong Society, please visit [www.sejongsocietywdc.org](http://www.sejongsocietywdc.org).

### **A Special Presentation by Song Byeok**

**In Association with *thirst*. DC**

**Thursday, November 8 at 6pm**

*Woolly Rehearsal Hall*

The event and performance is \$25

Please use Promo Code "2286" to book tickets.

RSVP: Woolly Box Office: 202.393.3939 or [www.woollymammoth.net](http://www.woollymammoth.net)

Contemporary artist Song Byeok will talk about his transformation from propagandist artist to satirist in an event presented in association with *thirst*. DC. *thirst*. DC aims to create and foster

thought leaders both on and off stage by crafting an informal environment where world-renowned experts socialize, interact with, and inspire attendees in a lounge atmosphere.

**A Special Presentation by Song Byeok  
In Association with American University, School of International Service  
Friday, November 9 at 1:15pm**

*Abramson Family Founders Room at the intersection of Nebraska & New Mexico Avenues, NW*  
Event is free and open to the public  
RSVP: [www.american.edu/sis/songbyeok.cfm](http://www.american.edu/sis/songbyeok.cfm)

Contemporary artist Song Byeok will talk about his transformation from propagandist artist to satirist in an event presented in association with American University's School of International Service. Located in Washington, DC, American University's School of International Service is ranked consistently among the top ten schools of international relations. More than 3,000 students, from undergraduates to PhD candidates, representing 150 countries, are taught by over 100 full-time faculty. SIS's policy-practitioner relationships and global university partnerships help to place 80 percent of its students in internships, and enable 40 percent of graduate students, and 80 percent of undergraduates, to study abroad. The School's faculty, practicing adjuncts and interdisciplinary curriculum prepare graduates for global service in government, non-profits, and business.

**A Special Presentation by Song Byeok  
In Association with the University of the District of Columbia, Department of Visual and Performing Arts**

**Wednesday, November 14, 12:30pm**  
*University of the District of Columbia, Building 42, Room A14*  
The event is free and open to the public  
RSVP: Email [jordan@woollymammoth.net](mailto:jordan@woollymammoth.net)

Song Byeok will talk about his transformation from propagandist artist to satirist in an event presented in association with the University of the District of Columbia's Department of Visual and Performing Arts. The Interdisciplinary Art/Studio Arts degree at UCD incorporates several traditional art disciplines including painting, printmaking, drawing, photography, and digital media. Advanced studio and art history courses help students to synthesize diverse art techniques and theories.

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

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[#YouForMe](https://twitter.com/woollymammothtc)  
Blog: [woollymammothblog.com](http://woollymammothblog.com)

**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 plays, and one of the best known and most influential mid-sized theatres in America.

**ABOUT SANDBRUSH**

Sandbrush, Inc. is a nonprofit talent agency providing managerial services to under-resourced artists producing culturally-significant works that promote education about democratic rights and social justice in the global community.

[www.woollymammoth.net](http://www.woollymammoth.net)

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**ARTIST PRESS CONTACT**

Gregory Pence (director) | Sojeong Kim (manager)

SANDBRUSH, INC.

[Sandbrush.org@gmail.com](mailto:Sandbrush.org@gmail.com)

+82 10 2955 4283