



For Immediate Release

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**WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS WORLD PREMIERE PRODUCTION OF
*YOU FOR ME FOR YOU***

**FIRST PRODUCTION TO BE SUPPORTED BY INNOVATIVE \$4 MILLION
“FREE THE BEAST” FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN**

(Washington, DC) **Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company’s** 33rd Season continues with the world premiere of ***You for Me for You*** by Mia Chung, directed by Yury Urnov, November 5 through December 2, 2012.

The play 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.

“Woolly is honored to launch the first major production by Korean-American playwright Mia Chung,” says Woolly Artistic Director, Howard Shalwitz. “In the imaginative tradition of Paula Vogel and Sarah Ruhl, Chung’s poetic fantasy movingly depicts the immigrant experience, and stitches together two very different societies – North Korea and the United States – in surprising ways. Our extended process of working on the play – made possible by “Free the Beast” – has allowed all the artists to engage more deeply, to experiment with new approaches, and to galvanize a shared sense of purpose. We are grateful to the many generous supporters of “Free the Beast,” which lays the foundation for Woolly’s artistic growth over the coming decade.”

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.

In partnership with Sandbrush Inc., Woolly Mammoth's lobby will double as an art gallery throughout the run of ***You for Me for You***, featuring an exhibit by Korean pop artist Song Byeok. Once the 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 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. Now dedicated to promoting freedom, he paints acrylic pieces that satirize oppressive regimes worldwide. Song has been featured in major international media, including CNN, BBC, and Al Jazeera. Woolly Mammoth will host Song in DC, including appearances at American University, the Corcoran College of Art and Design, and the University of the District of Columbia. Additional community engagement activities are featured in Woolly's "House Lights Up!" programming profile below. To learn more about Song Byeok, please visit www.songbyeok.com.

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).

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

Mia Chung (Playwright) is a member of New Dramatists, the Ma-Yi Writers Lab, a RISCA playwriting fellow, and a TCG Global Connections grantee. Her work has been developed by the Bay Area Playwrights Festival, the Brandeis Theatre Company, the Civilians' R&D Group, Doorway Arts Ensemble, the Icicle Creek Theatre Festival, Inkwell Theatre, the Kennedy Center's Page to Stage Festival, the Magic Theatre, Mu Performing Arts, the Page Salon, Playwrights Realm, and Southern Rep. She has degrees from Brown, University of Dublin–Trinity College, and Yale. Following the world premiere of her play at Woolly Mammoth, ***You for Me for You*** will have a Boston premiere at Company One in Winter 2013.

Making his Woolly Mammoth directorial debut with ***You for Me for You***, **Yury Urnov** spent the 2011-2012 Season as a Director-in-Residence at Woolly Mammoth, thanks to the generous support of the Trust for Mutual Understanding. Born in Moscow, Russia, Yury graduated from the Russian Academy of Theater Art (GITIS) in 2000 and has directed over 40 productions in his home country, Europe, and Africa. He was one of the first to discover and direct plays by the first generation of post-Soviet playwrights, such as Maksym Kurochkin, Olga Mukhina, and Yury Klavdiev, who are now internationally recognized as the leaders of the New Russian Drama movement. In Russia, Yury also translated and directed the national premieres of Martin McDonagh's *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* and Sarah Ruhl's *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. Since 2002, he has worked closely with the Center for International Theater Development (directed by Philip Arnoult) on a number of international projects, including the 2009-2011 program New Russian Drama: Translation/Production/Conference, which brought over 20 contemporary Russian plays to America.

The ***You for Me for You*** cast will include Woolly Company Member **Kimberly Gilbert*** (*A Bright New Boise, Clybourne Park, In the Next Room or the vibrator play, Fever/Dream, Boom, Measure for Pleasure, The K of D, Martha, Josie and the Chinese Elvis, Big Death & Little Death, and Cooking with Elvis*), **Jo Mei***, **Ruibo Qian***, **Francis Jue***, and **Matthew Dewberry**.

The creative team will include set design by **Daniel Ettinger**, costume design by **Frank Labovitz**, lighting design by **Andrew Griffin**, and sound design by **Elisheba Ittoop**. Additional credits include **Mike Iveson, Jr.** (composer), **Naoko Maeshiba** (choreographer), **Francis Cabatac** (puppeteer), **John Baker** (dramaturgy) and **Marne Anderson*** (production stage manager).

**Member, Actors' Equity Association*

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.

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**, or in person at 641 D Street, NW (7th & D). For directions and parking information, please visit **www.woollymammoth.net**.

ADDITIONAL HOUSE LIGHTS UP! EVENTS

House Lights Up is a series of high-profile panel discussions, lectures, debates, film-screenings, concerts, readings, and other special events, curated by Woolly's Connectivity Department.

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

Tuesday, November 6

Performance, 8pm; Party, 9:30pm

Woolly Lobby

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.

Happy Hour with the Sejong Society of Washington DC

Wednesday, November 7 at 6pm

Woolly Lower Lobby

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***. 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.sejongocietywdc.org.

**A Special Presentation by Song Byeok
In Association with ThirstDC
Thursday, November 8 at 6pm
Woolly Rehearsal Hall**

Pop artist Song Byeok will talk about his transformation from propagandist artist to satirist in an event presented in association with ThirstDC. ThirstDC 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.

**New York Korean Society Ambassador Reception
Thursday, November 15 at 6pm
Woolly Rehearsal Hall**

Join Ambassador Thomas C. Hubbard, former US Ambassador to the Republic of Korea; Ambassador Mark Minton, former chief of mission at the US Embassy in Seoul, Korea; and Dr. Stephen Noerper, Senior Vice President of the Korea Society for a discussion about US-Korea relations. This event is a benefit to support Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 5	8pm	PAY WHAT YOU CAN PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
November 6	8pm	ELECTION NIGHT SPECIAL PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
November 7	6pm	HAPPY HOUR WITH SEJONG SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC
	8pm	PREVIEW PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
November 8	6pm	SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY SONG BYEOK
	8pm	PREVIEW PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
November 9	8pm	OPENING NIGHT PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
November 10	8pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
November 11	7pm	PRESS PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
November 14	8pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
November 15	6pm	NEW YORK KOREAN SOCIETY AMBASSADOR RECEPTION
	8pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
November 16	8pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
November 17	3pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
	8pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
November 18	2pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
	7pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
November 21	8pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
November 22	8pm	THANKSGIVING – NO SHOW
November 23	8pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
November 24	3pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
	8pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
November 25	2pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
	7pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
November 28	8pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
November 29	8pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
November 30	8pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
December 1	3pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
	8pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
December 2	2pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>
	7pm	PERFORMANCE of <i>You for Me for You</i>

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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Twitter.com/woollymammothtc (#YouForMe)

Blog: woollymammothblog.com

ABOUT WOOLLY

Now in its 33 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.

www.woollymammoth.net

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