



Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
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ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT FOR

CIVILIZATION (ALL YOU CAN EAT)

To Members of the Media:

As part of Woolly's ongoing green initiatives, moving forward every one of our performances will have an electronic press kit available on our website. Here you can view all the contents of the show's press kit, including press releases, links to feature articles and/or past reviews, as well as password protected press photos.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, look forward to seeing you at the theatre!

Sincerely,

Brooke Miller
Press and Digital Content Manager



For Immediate Release
January 12, 2012
Contact: Brooke Miller
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WORLD PREMIERE OF JASON GROTE'S *CIVILIZATION (ALL YOU CAN EAT)* BEGINS PERFORMANCES AT WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY FEBRUARY 13TH

SARAH MARSHALL STARS AS A TALKING PIG IN THIS VAUDEVILLIAN ROMP OF CORRUPTION, CONSUMPTION, AND AMERICAN ENTERPRISE TO BE DIRECTED BY HOWARD SHALWITZ

(Washington, DC) – Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company is proud to present the World Premiere of *Civilization (all you can eat)* written by **Jason Grote** and directed by Artistic Director **Howard Shalwitz**. This wicked satire follows a group of six ambitious Americans on a quest for success at the dawn of the Obama age— and the price they must pay to achieve it. *Civilization (all you can eat)* runs February 13–March 11; Wednesdays–Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 3pm and 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm and 7pm.

“As a director, I love plays that don’t just tell a story, but that give me a chance to create a truly original theatrical event,” says Artistic Director **Howard Shalwitz**. “**Jason Grote’s** *Civilization (all you can eat)*—with its interweaving narratives, bizarre dance episodes, and talking pig—is a veritable director’s playground!”

Shalwitz continues, “The play looks back at our previous Presidential election cycle: the summer of 2008, just as the financial crisis was unraveling and Sarah Palin was announced as John McCain’s running mate. In a series of vivid character portraits, playwright **Jason Grote** captures the nation’s mounting anxiety about questions of race, about ‘making it’ in a hostile economic environment, and about the sustainability of American capitalism.”

Jason Grote, whose *Maria/Stuart* had its world premiere at Woolly Mammoth, is currently a writer for the NBC/Dreamworks show “Smash,” premiering February 6th, about the making of a Broadway musical based on the life of Marilyn Monroe.

Civilization (all you can eat) was originally commissioned by Clubbed Thumb in New York City and was developed with support from Clubbed Thumb, the Denver Center, Sundance Theatre Lab, and Towson University. It will feature Company Members **Daniel Escobar** (*She Stoops to Comedy, Full Circle*), **Naomi Jacobson** (*Full Circle, Maria/Stuart*), and **Sarah Marshall** (*In the Next Room or the vibrator play, Full Circle*) with **JaBen Early**, **Alice Gibson** (*Fever/Dream*), **Tia James**, **Sean Meehan** (*Bootycandy*), **Casie Platt** (*Current Nobody*), and **Jenna Sokolowski** (*Antebellum, She Stoops to Comedy*).

Civilization (all you can eat) will feature set design by **Daniel Ettinger**, costume design by **Valerie St. Pierre Smith**, lighting design by Company Member **Colin K. Bills**, sound design by **Veronika Vorel**, and video design by **Aaron Fisher**.

Civilization (all you can eat)

Written by Jason Grote

Directed by Howard Shalwitz

CAST

Big Hog.....	Sarah Marshall**+
Zoe.....	Tia James+
Carol.....	Naomi Jacobson**+
David.....	Daniel Escobar**+
Mike.....	Sean Meehan+
Jade.....	Casie Platt+
Karen.....	Jenna Sokolowski+
George Washington/Ensemble.....	Alice Gibson
Veterinarian/Ensemble.....	JaBen Early

CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright.....	Jason Grote
Director.....	Howard Shalwitz
Dance Choreographer.....	Diane Coburn Bruning
Set Designer.....	Daniel Ettinger
Costume Designer.....	Valerie St. Pierre Smith
Lighting Designer.....	Colin K. Bills**
Sound Designer.....	Veronika Vorel
Video Designer.....	Aaron Fisher
Properties.....	Jennifer Sheetz
Dramaturg.....	Miriam Weisfeld

** Denotes a Woolly Company Member

+ Denotes Member, Actors' Equity Association

Civilization (all you can eat) Catering Sponsor: RSVP Catering

Civilization (all you can eat) Restaurant Sponsor: Cedar

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jason Grote is a playwright and television writer based in Brooklyn. Previously at Woolly Mammoth: the world premiere of *Maria/Stuart* in 2008, directed by Pam MacKinnon. Other DC area productions include *1001* and *This Storm Is What We Call Progress* at Rorschach Theater. Other plays include *Hamilton Township*, *Darwin's Challenge*, and *Box Americana*. Jason is a writer for the NBC/Dreamworks show "Smash," created by Steven Spielberg and Theresa Rebeck, with music by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman. Current projects include a commission from ACT/Seattle about Stalin and Shostakovich and a musical adaptation of *1001* with composer Marisa Michelson. His work has been produced and developed with Sundance, Playwrights Horizons, The O'Neill, The Denver Center, Theater Bielefeld (Germany), Clubbed Thumb, The Civilians, The Foundry, Mass MoCA, The Luminato Festival (Canada), The Glej Theater (Slovenia), Salvage Vanguard, HERE, The Contemporary American Theater Festival, Baltimore CenterSTAGE, Collaboraction, and elsewhere. He was the 2006 P73 Playwriting Fellow.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Howard Shalwitz was co-founder of Woolly Mammoth and has been the visionary force behind the company for 32 seasons, steering the theatre's adventurous play selection, guiding the development and production of dozens of new works, and building a renowned acting company—leading Woolly Mammoth to be the center of groundbreaking theatre in Washington.

Howard received the 2011 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Director for *Clybourne Park*, and has received multiple Helen Hayes nominations as both a director and an actor. At Woolly Howard has directed the world premieres of *Fever/Dream*, *Big Death and Little Death*, along with *She Stoops to Comedy*, *Measure for Pleasure*, and *The Faculty Room*. He has directed for major New York and regional companies including New York Theatre Workshop, Playwrights Horizons, Arena Stage, Studio Arena, Milwaukee Rep, A Contemporary Theatre, and the Kennedy Center. He was recently recognized for Distinguished Service to the Humanities by the Humanities Council of Washington DC, received the 2005 Founders Award from the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, and was selected by *Washingtonian Magazine* as a 1999 "Washingtonian of the Year."

BLOGS, PODCASTS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Throughout the run of ***Civilization (all you can eat)***, Woolly will produce a series of blogs and podcasts on everything from Occupy DC, to our civilization's best accomplishments, to viral videos and internet memes. The Woolly Blog can be found at woollymammothblog.com, and all Radio Woolly podcasts are available for download on iTunes.

Follow the conversation on social media:

Facebook.com/woollymammothtc

Twitter.com/woollymammothtc, show hashtag: **#WoollyCIV**

Social media initiatives for ***Civilization (all you can eat)*** include the inaugural "Tweet Up," in which selected participants will be invited to attend the first rehearsal of ***Civilization (all you can eat)***, a technical rehearsal, and the final dress rehearsal. Tweet Up participants are invited to tweet their thoughts and reactions to these events using the show's hashtag **#WoollyCIV**.

CONNECTIVITY EVENTS

Lobby Design

As part of the theatre's continuing Connectivity efforts, audiences will be encouraged to interact with us in the following two ways:

Civilization – What makes it great?

Upper Lobby

Are you Team Ancient Rome or Modern Sweden? We've asked experts (and non-experts) from across DC to name the greatest civilization ever. When you arrive at Woolly, you will be invited to compare each civilization's stats and vote for the best via text, email, Facebook, or Twitter. We'll tally your votes after each performance to determine which civilizations advance to the next round. You can also fill out a bracket à la NCAA March Madness to predict who will make the final showdown and be named "greatest civilization ever." Accurately predict the winner and receive a fabulous grand prize!

(all you can eat) – How much is too much?

Lower Lobby

In our lower lobby, we'll be asking our patrons the question, "How much is too much?" by tempting them with a series of tantalizing prizes...and the compromising tasks that must be completed in order to obtain them. Would you corrupt yourself (or an unwitting fellow audience member) in order to get what you want?

Post Show Discussions

We will be bringing together several members of the DC community with varying perspectives to spark our reflections on the questions, "Is there a viable alternative to capitalism?" and "Who is Big Hog?" These discussions will be 20-30 minutes long and take place directly following the performance. Expected guests include representatives from Occupy DC, the Patriotic Millionaires for Fiscal Strength, and *The Washington Post*—to be announced within the coming month.

Post-show conversations will include two Audience Exchanges and one Mammoth Forum:

Wednesday, February 22 following the 8pm performance:

Audience Exchange: Each invited guest joins a Woolly facilitator on stage immediately after a performance to jump-start an audience-wide conversation by sharing their personal reflections on the show and its themes.

Sunday, February 26 following the 2pm performance:

Mammoth Forum: Town-hall style discussion featuring a panel of guests who will share their insights and explore a topic the production examines.

Thursday, March 1 following the 8pm performance:

Audience Exchange: Each invited guest joins a Woolly facilitator on stage immediately after a performance to jump-start an audience-wide conversation by sharing their personal reflections on the show and its themes.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Civilization (all you can eat) runs February 13–March 11; Wednesdays–Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 3pm and 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm and 7pm. *Sunday, February 19 at 7pm (no 2pm performance).

There will be a Pay-What-You-Can performance on Monday, February 13th at 8pm. Tuesday, February 14th is a Valentine's Day Cheap Date Night at 8pm.

TICKETS

Tickets for ***Civilization (all you can eat)*** start at \$30 and can be purchased through the Woolly Mammoth Box Office at 202-393-3939, online at www.woollymammoth.net, or in person at the Box Office located at 641 D Street, NW (7th & D). For directions and parking information, please visit www.woollymammoth.net.

ABOUT WOOLLY

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Woolly's 32nd Season features five works that relate to the question, "Does our civilization have an expiration date?" They include Samuel D. Hunter's *A Bright New Boise* (Oct 10-Nov 13), *The Second*

City's *Spoiler Alert: Everybody Dies* (Dec 6-Jan 8), Jason Grote's ***Civilization (all you can eat)*** (Feb 13-Mar 11), Joey Arias and Basil Twist's *Arias with a Twist** (Apr 4-May 6), and Anne Washburn's *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play* (May 28-July 1).

*This tour of Basil Twist is made possible by a grant from the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

www.woollymammoth.net

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CIVILIZATION (ALL YOU CAN EAT)

Feature Article Links:

“Life from the Porcine Perspective” – *The Washington Post*, 2/10/2012:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/gog/performing-arts/civilization-all-you-can-eat.1212385/critic-review.html>

“Woolly Mammoth’s CIVILIZATION SMACKDOWN” – Brightest Young Things, 2/9/2012:

<http://www.brightestyoungthings.com/articles/woolly-mammoths-civilization-smackdown-a-giveaway.htm>

“Playwright Jason Grote Takes a Turn at Writing for ‘Smash’” – *The Washington Post*, 2/8/2012:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/2012/02/07/gIQAL85MxQ_story.html



For Immediate Release
January 27, 2012
Contact: Brooke Miller
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WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY TO HOST LAUNCH OF BLACK WOMEN PLAYWRIGHTS' GROUP CYBER NARRATIVE PROJECT ON FEBRUARY 22ND

AWARD-WINNING PLAYWRIGHTS AND CARNEGIE MELLON ENTERTAINMENT TECHNOLOGY CENTER-GLOBAL STUDENTS SHOWCASE THE RESULTS OF THEIR PARTNERSHIP—CREATING DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT TOOLS TO ENHANCE LIVE THEATRE PERFORMANCES

(Washington, DC) – Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company is honored to host the launch of the Cyber Narrative Project—an innovative collaboration between **Black Women Playwrights' Group (BWPG)** and the **Carnegie Mellon Entertainment Technology Center-Global (ETC-Global)**. This project will partner playwrights of color with technology students to create cyber-narrative tools to enhance live productions of their plays. The launch of this program will include a demonstration of two of these tools in development, including an **interactive website** and an **online video game**.

Helmed by BWPG President and Founder Karen Evans with ETC-Global professor Chris Klug (co-creator of *DragonQuest*), this project aims to use technology in a more integrated and meaningful way with live performances. The primary goal is to entice the Millennial Generation—adept at role-play, improvisation, and interactivity online—to engage with characters and narratives in live performance.

In addition to the demonstration of the cyber-narrative tools, the launch on February 22nd will include readings from *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* by Lynn Nottage and *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* by Kristoffer Diaz, the two plays that inspired the digital tools; and a panel of experts to discuss issues of intellectual property, viral marketing, and resource building for future collaborations between artists and technologists. Speakers include Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **Lynn Nottage**, *New York Times* Playwright of the Year **Kristoffer Diaz**, Executive Producer of the Carnegie Mellon ETC-Global **Don Marinelli**, ETC-Global professor **Chris Klug**, and representatives from **Google** and **AOL**.

Theatres participating in the BWPG/Carnegie Mellon ETC-Global Cyber Narrative Project include: **About Face Theatre, Dallas Theater Center, Geffen Playhouse, Hip Hop Theater Festival, Intersection for the Arts, Penumbra Theatre, Victory Gardens Theater, and Woolly Mammoth Theatre**. The project is funded by Bloomberg BNA, The Dreyfus Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, Bill and Louisa Newlin, and Nick Olcott.

The event will be livestreamed on #NewPlay TV (<http://www.livestream.com/newplay>), and will be live tweeted from Woolly's Twitter account (@woollymammothtc). Follow the hashtag **#CyberNarr**.

Members of the media interested in attending this event should contact Brooke Miller at brooke@woollymammoth.net

Schedule for BWPG/Carnegie Mellon ETC-Global Cyber Narrative Project launch:

1pm: Welcome remarks from Karen Evans (BWPG) and Miriam Weisfeld (Woolly Mammoth).

1:15pm: Summary of the project by Don Marinelli (Carnegie Mellon ETC-Global).

1:30pm: Kristoffer Diaz introduces *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* and reading of excerpt.

2pm: Chris Klug (Carnegie Mellon ETC-Global) introduces the students building *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* cyber narrative project: **an online video game**. The students will demonstrate it and there will be a Q&A session.

2:45pm: Coffee break.

3:15pm: Lynn Nottage introduces *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* and reading of excerpt.

3:45pm: Chris Klug (Carnegie Mellon ETC-Global) introduces students building the *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* cyber narrative project: **an interactive website**. The students will demonstrate it and there will be a Q&A session.

4:30pm: Panel discussion with experts from the DC technology community to discuss replicating these models in the future.

8pm: Performance of Woolly's current production, ***Civilization (all you can eat)*** by Jason Grote (ticket discounts available to participants of the cyber-narrative launch).

ABOUT WOOLLY

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Woolly's 32nd Season features five works that relate to the question, "Does our civilization have an expiration date?" They include Samuel D. Hunter's *A Bright New Boise* (Oct 10-Nov 13), The Second City's *Spoiler Alert: Everybody Dies* (Dec 6-Jan 8), Jason Grote's ***Civilization (all you can eat)*** (Feb 13-Mar 11), Joey Arias and Basil Twist's *Arias with a Twist** (Apr 4-May 6), and Anne Washburn's *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play* (May 28-July 1).

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Media Advisory
January 10, 2012
Contact: Brooke Miller
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WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL “TWEET UP”

EXPERIMENTAL STRATEGY DESIGNED TO ENGAGE AUDIENCES INTERESTED IN THEATRE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

(Washington, DC) – Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company announces its inaugural “Tweet Up” in conjunction with the World Premiere of ***Civilization (all you can eat)*** written by Jason Grote and directed by Howard Shalwitz. The goal of these efforts is to open up the rehearsal process of a new play for select audience members interested in strengthening their engagement with Woolly Mammoth.

Selected participants of the Tweet Up will be invited to attend the first rehearsal of ***Civilization (all you can eat)***, a technical rehearsal, and the final dress rehearsal. Tweet Up participants are invited to tweet their thoughts and reactions to these events using the show’s hashtag **#WoollyCIV**.

The Tweet Up will culminate at the final dress rehearsal, where Tweet Up participants, along with Woolly staff, claque, and working group members are invited to live-tweet the performance.

In addition, Tweet Up participants will be invited to attend the press night of ***Civilization (all you can eat)*** on Sunday, February 19th at 7:00 pm.

DETAILS:

- Individuals interested in participating in the Tweet Up should tweet at us ([Twitter.com/woollymammothtc](https://twitter.com/woollymammothtc)) as to why they are interested in participating. Answers should be submitted to us with the hashtag **#WoollyTweetUp**.
- Three winners will be chosen from the responses. Winners of the Tweet Up will be announced via Twitter on Friday, January 13, 2012.
- Tweet Up Participants must be available on the following dates:
 - 1) **Tuesday, January 17th at 2:00 pm**: First rehearsal of ***Civilization (all you can eat)***
 - 2) **Thursday, February 9th at 6:30 pm**: Technical rehearsal of ***Civilization (all you can eat)***
 - 3) **Saturday, February 11th at 7:00 pm**: Final dress rehearsal of ***Civilization (all you can eat)***

ABOUT *Civilization (all you can eat)*:

What do a corporate lecturer, a career waitress, and an anthropomorphic pig all have in common?

They are all characters in the World Premiere of ***Civilization (all you can eat)***, a vaudevillian romp of **corruption, consumption, and enterprise at the dawn of the Obama age**. Unlike anything you’ve ever seen before, this absurdist satire takes you through the world of six hungry city-dwellers, burning with ambition and a desire to “make it.” But at what cost? Sarah Marshall stars as Big Hog, the ultimate capitalist underdog, along with Danny Escobar, Naomi Jacobson, and an award-winning Washington cast.

"Grote has made a name for himself in recent years with scripts that explode the boundaries between the ordinary and the chimerical, the political and the aesthetic, the intimate and the dizzyingly cosmic."
—*The Washington Post*

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