



For Immediate Release
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**WOOLLY MAMMOTH'S 37TH SEASON CONTINUES
WITH THE U.S. PREMIERE OF *KISS* BY GUILLERMO CALDERÓN**

**INTIMATE STAGING OF A POLITICALLY-CHARGED DRAMA BY INTERNATIONAL
PLAYWRIGHT AT WOOLLY MAMMOTH**

(Washington, DC) **Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company** announces the second production of its 37th Season, the U.S. premiere of *KISS* by **Guillermo Calderón**, directed by **Yury Urnov**. *KISS* will run from October 10 – November 6, 2016.

A standing double-date quickly becomes a hilarious farce as four friends unburden their hearts and reveal their secret passions. But is anything really what it seems to be? An intense, furtive video chat with what might be an exiled author, living on the run while escaping persecution, slowly upends both their world and ours. Can we recover what's been lost in translation?

This U.S. premiere by "Chile's most acclaimed playwright-director of the last two decades" (*LA Times*) is a disquieting exploration of the limitations of art in grappling with the suffocating effects of an oppressive regime. Politically charged and emotionally urgent, it dares us to question whether we can truly understand other cultures...because just when we think we get *KISS*, it gets us instead.

Guillermo Calderón's plays have been produced and performed around the world. Calderón's first play as a writer, *Neva*, was a critical success, winning multiple awards, including Best Play of the Year in 2006 by the Art Critics Circle of Chile, three Altazor Awards in 2007 (including Best Director and Best Playwright), and the 2008 Jose Nuez Martin Award given by the Facultad de Letras Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile (Catholic University of Chile). His more recent works include *Villa and Speech*. He also worked on the screenplay for *Violeta (se fue a los cielos)*, Chile's 2012 entry for the Oscar Awards in the Foreign Film category. He is currently commissioned for a project with The Public Theater in New York City.

"*KISS* is about the seemingly insurmountable barriers to communicate and understand each other through technology, language, cultural difference, and war," says **Woolly Mammoth Artistic Director Howard Shalwitz**. "*KISS* is also about the power of storytelling as a tool for learning, healing, and survival. As we watch the play unfold, we are drawn into a profound sense of empathy, not only with the actors, but with the victims of the tragedy they are responding to. It is a brilliant example of the way in which theatre can put us in the shoes of people who are very different from ourselves."

Company members **Tim Getman** and **Gabriella Fernandez-Coffey**, previously seen playing together in *The Nether* and in *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, reunite on the Woolly stage as Ahmed and Bana. Also joining them will be new Woolly company member **Shannon Dorsey**, as

Hadeel, who returns to the Woolly Stage after her critically-acclaimed performance as Minnie in *An Octoroon*. **Joe Mallon** (Youssif), **Lelia Tahaburt** (Woman), and **Ahmad Kamal** (Interpreter) round out the cast.

Company members **Yury Urnov** (director) and **Misha Kachman** (set and costume designer) lead the production team. *KISS* will be their first collaboration since Woolly's 2014 hit *Marie Antoinette*. The team also includes **Jimmy Garver** (sound design) and **Max Doolittle** (lights).

More information about Woolly's 37th Season can be found at woollymammoth.net.

SCHEDULE

KISS runs October 10 to November 6, 2016, with performances: Wednesday-Friday at 8 pm (except Tuesday, October 18 at 8 pm in lieu of Wednesday, October 19); Saturday at 3 pm and 8 pm (Saturday, October 15 at 8 pm only and Saturday, October 22 at 3pm only); and Sunday at 2 pm and 7 pm (Sunday, October 16 at 7 pm only). Monday, October 10 and Tuesday, October 11 will be Pay What You Can performances, which will begin at 8 pm.

PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

October 10, 2016: Pay What You Can performance at 8 pm
October 11, 2016: Pay What You Can performance at 8 pm
October 12, 2016: Preview performance at 8 pm
October 13, 2016: Preview performance at 8 pm
October 14, 2016: Opening and Press Night performance at 8 pm
October 15, 2016: Performance at 8 pm
October 16, 2016: Performance at 7 pm VIP Night
October 18, 2016: Performance at 8 pm
October 20, 2016: Performance at 8 pm
October 21, 2016: Performance at 8 pm
October 22, 2016: Performances at 3 pm
October 23, 2016: Performances at 2 pm and 7 pm
October 26, 2016: Performance at 8 pm
October 27, 2016: Performance at 8 pm
October 28, 2016: Performance at 8 pm
October 29, 2016: Performances at 3 pm and 8 pm
October 30, 2016: Performances at 2 pm and 7 pm
November 2, 2016: Performance at 8 pm
November 3, 2016: Performance at 8 pm
November 4, 2016: Performance at 8 pm
November 5, 2016: Performances at 3 pm and 8 pm
November 6, 2016: Performances at 2 pm and 7 pm

TICKETS

Tickets to **KISS** start at \$35 and can be purchased online at woollymammoth.net, by phone at (202) 393-3939, via email at tickets@woollymammoth.net, or in person at the Box Office, located at 641 D Street NW.

Patrons who are 30-years-old and younger may, at any time, purchase Section B tickets for \$20 to any performance. There are also discounts available for educators, first responder men and women and active US military personnel, spouses, and veterans. More information is available at woollymammoth.net.

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ABOUT WOOLLY

Now in its 37th 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.