



## PRESS RELEASE

MOSAIC YOUTH THEATRE OF DETROIT  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### MOSAIC PRESENTS THE "JOYFUL TRAGEDY", THE GOSPEL AT COLONUS MAY 14<sup>TH</sup> – 23<sup>RD</sup> AT THE DIA

DETROIT, April 4, 2010 – A youth minister stands in front of his congregation and proclaims, "I take as my text this evening the book of Oedipus..." and **THE GOSPEL AT COLONUS**, a blend of modern gospel inspired music and ancient Greek drama is on its way. Newsweek calls this show "One of the most marvelous shows of the decade...one of the most inspired ideas of all time"; and The San Francisco Chronicle called **THE GOSPEL AT COLONUS** a "joyful tragedy." Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit is proud to join with the Ilitch Charities to present this ground-breaking production to metro-Detroit audiences May 14<sup>th</sup> – May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Detroit Film Theatre of the DIA.

Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit is an award-winning performing arts and professional training program for young artists in its 17<sup>th</sup> season of creating high-quality, thought-provoking performances that not only entertain – but inspire. In Mosaic's adaptation of this Tony-award winning play, a charismatic youth ministry uses ecstatic song, call-and-response, praise dance and parable-like sermons to tell the story of Oedipus' death and redemption. After years of wandering in exile from Thebes - ever since the tragedy recounted in "Oedipus Rex" - he comes to the city of Colonus attended by his sister-daughters, in search of final peace. In this version of the Greek tragedy, the doomed Oedipus ultimately finds forgiveness, redemption and resurrection in the welcoming arms of a church.

Joyous, spirit-filled music by the Mosaic Singers moves the plot of **THE GOSPEL AT COLONUS**, taking Oedipus from living purgatory to ecstatic release. In the finale, "Lift Him Up", the chorus shouts, "Higher, higher..." and carries Oedipus up in a jubilant blaze of glory. Created by Lee Breuer, the acclaimed original production featured Morgan Freeman and the Blind Boys of Alabama. Performances of **THE GOSPEL AT COLONUS** are Friday May 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm; Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm; Friday May 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 pm and Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 pm.

#### TARGET HALF-PRICE FAMILY PERFORMANCES!

THANKS TO TARGET'S GENEROUS SUPPORT, ALL TICKETS FOR THE FRIDAY, MAY 14<sup>TH</sup> AND FRIDAY MAY 21<sup>ST</sup> PERFORMANCES ARE HALF-PRICED AT \$10. To purchase tickets to any performance of **The Gospel at Colonus**, call 313-833-4005, or order online at [www.mosaicdetroit.org](http://www.mosaicdetroit.org). Special group rates and student matinee performances are available by calling 313-872-6910 ext. 4021. All shows are general admission. Children under 5 are not admitted.

-More-



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## FACT SHEET

### THE GOSPEL AT COLONUS, presented by Ilitch Charities

#### Show dates and times:

Friday May 14 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 pm
Saturday May 15 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 pm
Sunday May 16 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 pm
Friday May 21 <sup>st</sup>	8:00 pm
Saturday May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8:00 pm
Sunday May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	4:00 pm

#### Performance Location:

**THE GOSPEL AT COLONUS**, presented by Ilitch Charities, is performed at the Detroit Film Theatre inside the DIA, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202 (John R. Entrance.)

#### Production Staff:

Director: Kate Peckham, *Co-Artistic Director, Director of Acting Programs*  
Music Director: DeLashea Middleton, *Co-Artistic Director, Director of Music Programs*  
Asst. Music Director: Dennis Ryans, II  
Asst. Director: Audrey Drake-Reed  
Production Manager: Scot Cleaveland

#### The Band: "The Element"

- Jonathan Dixon, *Band Director and Piano*
- Darell Campbell Jr, *Bass*
- Nate Winn, *Drums*

#### Additional sponsors of THE GOSPEL AT COLONUS include:

Bank of America, Official Sponsor of the Mosaic Acting Company; Ford Motor Company, Official Sponsor of the Mosaic Singers; 2009-2010 Lead Sponsors Comerica Bank, Henry Ford Health System, Blue Cross Blue Shield and DTE Energy Foundation; 2009-2010 Supporting Sponsors Comcast, The Skillman Foundation, The McGregor Fund, Masco Corporation Foundation, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, National Endowment for the Arts and The National Endowment for the Arts Recovery Act. Media sponsors, 105.9 kiss-fm, *The Michigan Chronicle*, *The Michigan FRONTPage*, Detroit Public Television.

#### About Mosaic

Named *Best-Managed Nonprofit* by *Crain's Detroit Business* in 2006, Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit is a national model for youth development through the arts. Mosaic's mission is to empower young people to maximize their potential through professional performing arts training and the creation of first-rate theatrical and musical art. Mosaic's all-teen performances have toured Africa, Asia, Europe and the U.S., and have been featured on NBC's *Today Show*, NPR's *All Things Considered*, and was the subject of the Michigan Emmy Award-winning PBS documentary, *And They Flew: The Story of Mosaic Youth Theatre*. For more information about Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit visit [www.mosaicdetroit.org](http://www.mosaicdetroit.org).