



## For Immediate Release

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### Mosaic Celebrates the Holidays... Detroit Style!

DETROIT- Internationally-acclaimed Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit brings the warmth, joy and good cheer of the holiday season to the Detroit Film Theatre inside the newly renovated Detroit Institute of Arts this December 14-16, 2007 with the premiere of *Woodward Wonderland: A Detroit Holiday Celebration*.

Through song and dance, this energetic production, takes the audience on a nostalgic theatrical journey to magical destinations like, **Toyland on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the old J.L. Hudson's department store** and to the windy 1990 Thanksgiving Day Parade when the Chilly Willy float made its memorable escape down Woodward Avenue. In the tradition of holiday classics like *The Nutcracker*, *Woodward Wonderland*, puts a uniquely Detroit spin on the holiday season, paying tribute to the metro area's many rich holiday traditions, including the church performances of Handel's Messiah, ice skating at Campus Martius Park and listening to Motown Christmas albums.

Audience members will be entertained by a cast of more than 100 performers, including performances by special guest artists from LaShelle's School of Dance and choral holiday music by the award-winning Mosaic Singers. The production will include two original short plays by local playwright Barton Bund along with oral history pieces written by Mosaic Founder and CEO, Rick Sperling and members of Mosaic's Youth Ensemble.

"The purpose of this production is to celebrate the truly great things about the holiday season in Detroit," said Rick Sperling. "Our hope is that *Woodward Wonderland* at the DIA will become an annual holiday tradition that Metro Detroiters will look forward to experiencing for many holidays to come."

Performances of *Woodward Wonderland* take place at 8 p.m. on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and at 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$12 for students and seniors with valid ID. Tickets can be purchased at the DIA box office by calling (313) 833-4005 or by visiting [www.mosaicdetroit.org](http://www.mosaicdetroit.org). For groups of 10 or more call (313) 872-6910 ext 4021 to reserve your specially priced tickets by December 3<sup>rd</sup>. But don't wait too long. Seats for this holiday tradition in-the-making will be sure to go quickly!

*Woodward Wonderland* is made possible with the generous support of **Henry Ford Health System, 105.9 kiss-fm** and **Target**. Additional sponsors of *Woodward Wonderland* include: WDET 101.9 FM, *Between the Lines*, *The Michigan Chronicle*, *The Michigan FRONT Page*, Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs and National Endowment for the Arts.

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Recently named *Best-Managed Nonprofit* by *Crain's Detroit Business*, 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).