



# PRESS RELEASE

## MOSAIC YOUTH THEATRE OF DETROIT

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES MOSAIC SCHOLARSHIP**

**DETROIT, June 1, 2010** – Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit and Wayne State University are pleased to announce the creation of the *Mosaic Youth Theatre Talent Scholarship* to go into effect in 2011. This talent based scholarship will be equal to half tuition (worth at least \$18,000 over four years) for Mosaic's Main Stage young artists. The announcement was made at the closing night performance of Mosaic's production, *The Gospel at Colonus* at the DIA by Jesse Merz, Head of the Undergraduate BFA Program in Acting at Wayne State University. Three Mosaic alumni currently attending Wayne State were also there for the announcement.

*"Mosaic alumni who have joined Wayne State University's Theatre Department have always come with important theatrical skills, such as good articulation, expressive bodies and they are always team players who contribute positively to the ensemble" says Merz. "In addition to those attributes, Mosaic alumni have something that cannot be taught by an acting teacher: heart. Wayne State's Theatre Department is excited to formalize its long-standing relationship with Mosaic Youth Theatre by offering the Mosaic Youth Theatre Talent Scholarship to alumni of Mosaic's program."*

As a testament to the Mosaic Model, in an urban area where the dropout rates are at staggering levels, a full 95% of Mosaic participants have graduated from high school on time and gone on to college. This year, Mosaic's young artists are breaking their own record. 100% of Mosaic's graduating seniors will be attending college this fall, with many receiving scholarships.

Mosaic's youth development through the performing arts programming provides the building blocks to prepare metro Detroit's young artists for a promising future, in college and beyond. In 2008, Mosaic released *Excellence on Stage and in Life: The Mosaic Model for Youth Development through the Arts*, findings of a 3-year study led by the University of Michigan and funded by The Wallace Foundation. The study found Mosaic had a positive impact on academic achievement -- such as improved grades and educational aspirations -- and a significant impact on personal and professional development. In particular, they saw that Mosaic's insistence on high expectations, active participation and total acceptance of each individual had led to an extraordinary percentage of Mosaic alumni not only graduating from high school, but attending college.

### **About Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit**

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).

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