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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SPLASHY SPECTACLE SURROUNDS TRUE STORY IN SAN DIEGO PREMIERE**

*Voyeurs de Venus Opens August 18*

**August 2018** - In 1810, a Khoikhoi woman named Saartjie Baartman left her home in South Africa only to spend the rest of her life as a side show display in England and France as “The Hottentot Venus,” where spectators would pay to see her voluptuous body. In Lydia R. Diamond’s *Voyeurs de Venus*, a modern day pop culture academic struggles with how to tell Saartjie’s story without continuing to exploit the exploited. The result? A fun, dance-filled spectacle tackling gender, race, and class making its San Diego debut at MOXIE.

*Voyeurs de Venus* stars MOXIE veteran Cashae Monya as Sara, the hotshot young cultural anthropologist and professor who is being courted by a lucrative book deal that would require her to sell out her integrity - and images of Saartjie in various states of undress - in order to make the book sell. As she struggles with how to write the book without losing her soul, she’s haunted by dance-filled nightmares, white women named Becky, and Saartjie herself.

Founding member and former Artistic Director Delicia Turner Sonnenberg returns to direct, marking the second collaboration between Sonnenberg and Diamond (2013 San Diego Critic’s Circle Best Drama winner, *The Bluest Eye*). Joy Jones, making her MOXIE debut as Baartman, says “I wasn’t expecting there to be so much comedy in this show. It’s really funny. I really hope the audience isn’t afraid to laugh. Historically Saartjie’s story has been told by the men who exploited her, but in this show, we get see her speak for herself. I love getting the opportunity to show her strength and resilience. To show her power. If you look at the sketches of her story most often people only see the victim. She fought back. She spoke up.”



*Voyeurs de Venus*

# **MOXIE** Theatre

**Directed by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg. Choreographed by Michael Mizrany. The Design and Production Team includes: Set Design, Justin Humphres; Costume Design, Shelly Williams; Lighting Design, Nate Parde; Sound Design, Matt Lescault-Wood; Properties Design, Angelica Ynfante; Wig Design, Missy Bradstreet; Stage Management, Nicole Ries.**



**Lydia R. Diamond (Playwright)** Award winning Plays include: *Smart People*, *Stick Fly*, *Voyeurs de Venus*, *The Bluest Eye*, *The Gift Horse*, *Harriet Jacobs*, *The Inside*, and *Stage Black*. Theatres include: Arena Stage, Cort Theatre (Broadway), Chicago Dramatists, Company One, Congo Square, Goodman Theatre, Hartford Stage, Huntington Theatre Company, Jubilee Theatre, Kansas City Repertory, Long Wharf, Lorraine Hansberry, McCarter, Theatre Mo'Olelo Performing Arts Co., MPAACT, New Vic Theatre, Playmakers Repertory, Plowshares Theatre Company, Second Stage Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company and TrueColors. Commissions include: Arena Stage, Steppenwolf (4), McCarter, Huntington, Center Stage, Victory Gardens and The Roundabout Theatre Company.



**Delicia Turner Sonnenberg (Director)** is a founder and former Artistic Director of MOXIE Theatre, where she directed many acclaimed productions. Recently for the Old Globe she directed Dominique Morisseau's *Skeleton Crew*, followed by *Romeo and Juliet* with The Old Globe and University of San Diego Shiley Graduate Theatre Program. She has also directed plays for San Diego Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego State University, Cygnet Theatre Company, Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company, New Village Arts, Diversionary Theatre, Lion theatre company, and Playwrights Project. Her honors include Theatre Communications Group's New Generations Program grant, the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Awards, Women's International Center Living Legacy Award, Van Lier Fund fellowship (Second Stage Theatre), and the New York Drama League's Directors Project. She is married to designer Jerry Sonnenberg and is the proud mama to August and Zoë.

# MOXIE Theatre

## THE CAST



**Cashae Monya (Sarah Washington)** MOXIE credits include: *The Revolutionists*, *Our Lady of Kiebhó*, *Trouble in Mind*, *Crumbs From the Table of Joy* and *The Bluest Eye*. Recent credits include: *Avenue Q* (New Village Arts), *The Last Wife* (Cygnet Theatre), *Cabaret* (ion Theatre), *Well* (Diversiónary Theatre) and *Miss You Like Hell* (La Jolla Playhouse). @Cashae.Monya on Instagram.



**Joy Jones (Saartjie Baartman)** MOXIE debut. Originally from Houston, Texas, Joy Yvonne Jones attended The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and went on to study at the University of Minnesota in the Guthrie Theatre BFA Actor Training Program. Joy believes that every story has a purpose, and as an actress, she is responsible for giving it breath. She is a lifelong student of her craft in all mediums. Some of her favorite roles have been, Hall in *Men on Boats* (New Village Arts), Helena in *A Mid Summer's Night Dream* (Texas Shakespeare Festival) Bianca in *The Taming of the Shrew* (Texas Shakespeare Festival).

**Also Starring:** Fred Harlow (Alexander Dunlop), Cortez Johnson (James Booker), Justin Lang (James Bradford/Georges Cuvier), Max Macke (William Bullock/Carl Richards), Nancy Ross (Millicent Ducent/Becky), Lesa Green (Dancer), Jocelynn Johnston (Dancer), Ashley Stewart (Dancer).



### **FACTS ABOUT *Voyeurs de Venus***

**WHAT:** *Voyeurs de Venus* by Lydia R. Diamond

**WHERE:** MOXIE Theatre, 6663 El Cajon Blvd Suite N, San Diego, CA 92115

**SCHEDULE:** Run Dates: August 12 - September 9. Opening Night: August 18.  
Thursdays at 7:30pm; Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm; Sundays at 2pm

### **TICKET PRICES**

**DISCOUNTS:** Seniors, Students, Military and AASD receive \$5 off general admission

\$18-\$44

10 or more tickets

25% OFF entire order

15 or more tickets

35% OFF entire order

**BOX OFFICE:** 858-598-7620 or [www.moxietheatre.com](http://www.moxietheatre.com)

### **SPECIAL PERFORMANCES:**

#### **Sunday August 12, 2018 @ 2pm - Post Show Panel Discussion**

Join Grossmont Professor T. Ford and SDSU Professor Adisa A. Alkebulan, Ph.D. after the first preview performance for a panel discussion on Cross-Cultural and Africana studies.

#### **Friday, August 17, 2018 @ 7pm – Bechdel Brigade Night: *Voyeurs de Venus***

Join MOXIE and The Bechdel Brigade for our lesbian outreach event featuring a pre-show discussion with a special guest and catered libations from Bash! Boutique.

#### **Sunday, August 26, 2018 @ 2pm – Second Sunday Q & A: *Voyeurs de Venus***

Join the actors from *Voyeurs de Venus* for a post-show discussion to learn more about the play and enrich your theatre going experience.

#### **Thursday August 30, 2018 @ 7:30 pm- Post Show Discussion**

Join UCSD Associate Professor Sara Kaplan, Ethnic Studies/Critical Gender Studies; Director, Critical Gender Studies Program; Associate Director, Black Studies Project at UCSD. She'll be giving historical context for the Saartjie Baartman story.

*Voyeurs de Venus*



**Sunday September 2, 2018 @ 2pm - Post Show Discussion**

Join USD Associate Professor Sylvie Ngilla McGraw, an expert in cultural identities, gender, African diasporas, and globalization. She is also French and teaches French language and culture at USD, providing perspective on Saartjie Bartman's time in France and the mark she's left on French Culture.

