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MOXIE Turns 18 & Passes the Torch of Leadership

WHAT: San Diego's woman-driven MOXIE Theatre turns 18 this year, celebrates its 75th production in May 2023, and is launching the search for its next artistic leader.

QUOTE: "The MOXIE founders' goal was to pass the torch of leadership forward to ensure that MOXIE remains an evolving platform for women+'s voices. Now is the time." says Executive Artistic Director Jennifer Eve Thorn, the final founder still on staff, who announced that the company is ready to fulfill the promise the founders made and begin the search for the organization's next Executive Artistic Director. "MOXIE is stronger than we've ever been. Our secure financial standing, the commitment of the staff and board, and our dedicated audience are the fertile ground needed for a new leader to succeed. Our search committee is comprised of some of the most respected community leaders. The founders and I planned for this day. I'm proud that MOXIE is prepared to carry the flame forward."

MOXIE Theatre launched in October of 2005 under the helm of Founding Executive Artistic Director Delicia Turner Sonnenberg alongside co-founders Jo Anne Glover, Liv Kellgren, and Thorn. MOXIE quickly garnered a reputation as an award-winning artistic powerhouse, whose determination to provide equity for women in theatre created significant change in the San Diego community and beyond. "*MOXIE amplifies not just the voices of women, but the voices of historically excluded and oppressed communities. In doing so, MOXIE has become an indelible part of the arts and culture ecosystem of San Diego.*" shared The Old Globe's Interim Associate Artistic Director, Kim Montelibano Heil. The organization's laser focus on its mission to create more diverse images of women for our culture, has led to a track record of launching careers for women in playwriting, design, and directing, and has cemented the organization as "a crucial launchpad for female-identified artists and an important entryway to the "pipeline" for female-authored work." according to American Theatre Magazine.

When Thorn stepped into her role as Executive Artistic Director in 2017, she had been serving as the company's Associate Artistic Director. "As Executive Artistic Director, Jennifer led MOXIE through a

tremendous period of growth and acclaim with deft leadership, artistic flair, and passion. The Board is tremendously grateful for her vision and dedication to artistic excellence and MOXIE's mission. While we are excited for the next phase of MOXIE's story which will be led by someone new, Jennifer leaves big shoes to fill," shared Shannon Sweeney, MOXIE's Board President.

FACTS

JOB POSTING: The job description for MOXIE Theatre's Executive Artistic Director, with instructions for how to apply, will be posted in the coming weeks at

www.moxietheatre.com/job-opportunities/

TIMELINE: The search for MOXIE's new leader is starting this fall, with plans for the new leader to start in Spring of 2023. Thorn plans to step out of her role in June 2023.

COMMITTEE: MOXIE has assembled an impressive Search Committee for New Artistic Leadership comprised of leaders from the San Diego non-profit and arts community, alongside MOXIE's board and staff members.



Dr. Maria Patrice Amon, director, dramaturg, producer, and scholar. She served as Associate Artistic Director at San Diego REP, is a co-founder and co-Artistic Director of TuYo Theatre, and Assistant Professor of theatre at CSU San Marcos.



Prof. Edith Benkov, MOXIE Board member and Professor Emerita in the SDSU Department of European Studies. Her primary areas of teaching have been in French, European, and LGBTQ Studies and she is co-director of the LGBTQ Research Consortium.



Jennifer Berry, Ed.D, current Chief Operating Officer of Presence Learning and former COO of After-School All-Stars, with 25+ years of management experience, focused primarily on strategic planning, HR and talent development, capacity building, business development, finance management, and operations.



Vivienne Esrig, MOXIE Board Treasurer and Deputy Director of the Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park. Also the Treasurer for Alliance San Diego and has served on numerous boards both nationally and regionally. She has a BA in Finance and an MBA in non-profit management.



Beth Goodman, longtime MOXIE supporter and a dedicated patron at many arts organizations, including San Diego Symphony and San Diego Opera, Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Sundance Film Festival. She is also a supporter and volunteer with several advocacy organizations, local and national, such as the National Institute for Reproductive Health.



Jamie Fox, MOXIE Board Secretary and Chief of Staff to San Diego City Councilmember Marni von Wilpert. Policy interests include public safety, education, labor, the arts community, and tourism. In addition to her work in government, she was a Lecturer for the Department of Rhetoric and Writing Studies at San Diego State University for over 10 years.



Leticia Gomez Franco, Executive Director of the Balboa Art Conservation Center (first new ED for the organization in 35 years). Before joining BACC, Gomez Franco served as the Senior Arts and Culture Funding Manager of the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, and as the Director of Programs and Lead Curator for the New Americans Museum.



Dea Hurston, a leader in San Diego's theater community as an underwriter, arts commissioner, community engagement leader, gala planner and outspoken voice for creating opportunities for actors, directors, designers and playwrights of color. And now also a playwright.



Lee Ann Kim, founder of Pacific Arts Movement, a nonprofit media arts organization best known for its annual San Diego Asian Film Festival, which she led for 16 years. Currently serving as one of the newest members of the San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.



Jacole Kitchen, Director of Arts Engagement and In-House Casting at La Jolla Playhouse and Executive Director of the San Diego Performing Arts League. She teaches acting, improv and professional development for actors, and is an accomplished director with credits at the La Jolla Playhouse, Diversionary Theatre, New Village Arts, among others.



Valentina Lunati, MOXIE's Development Director. Passionate about creating inclusive fundraising environments, she currently serves on the San Diego Association of Fundraising Professionals' Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility Committee. She previously worked in social services nonprofits.



Felicia Shaw, Executive Director of the Women's Museum of California, she serves on the boards of Californians for the Arts and California Advocates and on the Steering Committee of the San Diego Regional Arts and Culture Coalition. Previously she held director positions with the San Diego Foundation and City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.



Shannon D. Sweeney, current MOXIE Board President, litigator and trial attorney, a shareholder at Sullivan Hill, with substantial experience litigating complex commercial and business disputes, including for non-profit Boards. Dedicated feminist with a life-long appreciation of the arts, she graduated with degrees in theatre and art history from Scripps College.



Jennifer Eve Thorn, MOXIE's current Executive Artistic Director and one of the founders of MOXIE Theatre. She directed and performed in many MOXIE productions, and is also the director and co-creator of *A Lesson For Life*, a groundbreaking educational theatre experience for which she was awarded a Global Leadership Award from The Young President's Organization.



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