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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOXIE Announces Desireé Clarke as the new Executive Artistic Director to Carry the Flame

WHAT: MOXIE Theatre is proud to announce after a nationwide search, MOXIE's next Executive Artistic Director will be Desireé Clarke. She will be the next leader to carry the flame of San Diego's woman-driven MOXIE Theatre.

"We were impressed with all of the final candidates but it was clear that Desireé would be a perfect fit for MOXIE's next phase, and are so thrilled she agreed to lead it." - Edith Benkov, president-elect, Board of Directors

Clarke's MOXIE directorial debut in 2022 with *Mother of the Maid* received rave reviews. MOXIE founder, and current outgoing Executive Artistic Director, Jennifer Eve Thorn was directed by Clarke during this production, which gave her a first-hand experience of her leadership style and approach to theatre-making. Clarke will helm the final production of MOXIE's 18th Season, *The Chronicles of Kalki*.

"Desireé embodies our mission, and her vision for where the company will go next has the whole team excited. I'm honored she's chosen to lead this next chapter in MOXIE's history." - Jennifer Eve Thorn

Clarke has also garnered a reputation across San Diego, where she works as a director, actor, and teaching artist for The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, and many other organizations across the city.

"I'm so excited to be stepping into this role right as MOXIE reaches her adult age of 18. MOXIE is ready for her roaring 20's and it is an honor to guide her there." - Desireé Clarke

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, providing equity for women in theatre which created change in the San Diego community and beyond.

"As a long-time supporter of MOXIE, and someone involved in the interview process, I applaud the MOXIE board and believe they made an excellent decision by selecting Desireé to be the new Executive Artistic Director. I was impressed with her plans to elevate the organization while staying true to its feminist mission."
- Dea Hurston, Search Committee Member



Desiree Clarke is a San Diego based Director and Actor with credits in the Coachella Valley, San Diego, Los Angeles, and Houston. She received her BFA in Acting from AMDA: College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts and is also a graduate of the British American Drama Academy. She recently directed *Monsters of the American Cinema* at Diversionary Theatre and *Mother of the Maid* at MOXIE Theatre. In 2019 directed a staged reading of Rajiv Joseph's *Gruesome Playground Injuries* for which she was awarded the Desert Theatre League Award for Best Director of a Staged Reading. Desiree is extremely passionate about the impact that theatre can have on youth and its application as a healthy coping mechanism. She has been a teaching artist specializing in devised theatre for under-resourced and under-represented folx at the La Jolla Playhouse, The Old Globe and Imagine. Desiree currently sits on the board of directors for the Palm Springs Young Playwrights Festival and will be directing *Chronicles of Kalki* at MOXIE Theatre to close out their 18th season.

FACTS

NEW LEADER: Desiree Clarke has been selected as the new Executive Artistic Director of MOXIE Theatre.

TIMELINE: Desiree Clarke will begin working alongside Jennifer Eve Thorn in April of 2023 and will step into the role of MOXIE's Executive Artistic Director in May of 2023.



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