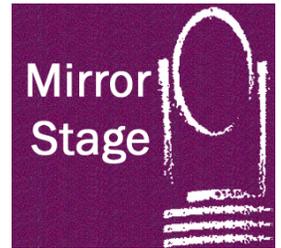


For Immediate Release

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Mirror Stage's Expand Upon #2 responds to the theme Incarceration and the Prison Industrial Complex

[Seattle, WA—May 15, 2018] Sponsored in part by ArtsWA and the City of Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, Mirror Stage is thrilled to continue its **Expand Upon** staged reading series, which creates opportunities for local artists to respond to important issues while engaging the community in meaningful dialogue. For this second round of **Expand Upon**, the community selected the theme "Incarceration/Prison Industrial Complex," and Mirror Stage commissioned ***The Assailant*** by Alma Davenport, and ***The Swimming Pool*** by Stacy D. Flood. The plays will be presented in tandem, with a moderated discussion following every performance. Directed by Suzanne M. Cohen, **Expand Upon: INCARCERATION/PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX** will feature Rick Dupree, Anasofia Gallegos, Tim Hyland, Adria LaMorticella, Pablo Lopez, Corey Spruill, and Benjamin Symons. This year, Mirror Stage is planning to add a second weekend of performances in South Seattle. Performances will be October 6 & 7, 2018 at the Ethnic Cultural Theatre, located at 3940 Brooklyn Ave NE in Seattle, and October 13 & 14, 2018 at Southside Commons, located at 3518 S Edmunds St in Seattle. Tickets go on sale **July 1, 2018**.

Incarceration is one of the main forms of punishment and rehabilitation for the commission of felony and other offenses in the United States. The United States has the largest prison population in the world, and the second-highest per-capita incarceration rate. Prison Industrial Complex (PIC) is a term used to describe the overlapping interests of government and industry that use surveillance, policing and imprisonment as solutions to economic, social and political problems. The PIC is not just prisons, themselves; it is the mutually reinforcing web of relationships between prisons, the probation service, the police, and the courts, as well as all the companies that profit from transporting, feeding and exploiting prisoners, and so forth.

Performance offers unique ways of knowing that can challenge entrenched paradigms, contribute to pluralism and expand the range of meaningful action. Mirror Stage's innovative series of staged readings examines topical issues from different perspectives. Presented without costumes or sets, the emphasis on the text encourages audiences to create their own imagined world inhabited by the play's characters. Following every performance, a moderated discussion with the audience and artists explores the issues raised in more depth.

Alma Davenport is a Seattle-based artist with roots in Washington DC and NY. She is the Founder and Producing and Artistic Director of Brown Soul Productions, an organization committed to developing and producing new work by women of color. Her body of work includes *The Tenant*, winner of the Lorraine Hansberry and Goldberg awards, *Champagne James*, winner of the Horowitz Playwriting Award, and *Capital Punishment*, Winner of the Gwendolyn Brooks poetry award, among other plays and poems. Alma graduated from the Duke Ellington School of the Arts and earned a BFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in Dramatic Writing. She is currently pursuing an MFA in Arts Leadership at Seattle University, and in the summer, works with City at Peace and Atlas Theatre in Washington DC, helping teens create musicals based on their life stories. Alma also serves on the board of directors for Northwest Family Life, which provides safe temporary housing and counseling for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.

Stacy D. Flood has been a finalist in the Ashland New Play Festival, and an artist-in-residence at the Haut de Fee Centre in France, La Serrania in Mallorca, DISQUIET in Lisbon, and The Millay Colony of the Arts in New York. Locally, his work has appeared at ACT, Ghost Light Theatricals, Theatre

Battery, Theater Schmeater, the Akropolis Performance Lab's New Year/New Play salon, Playlist Seattle, the Adaptive Arts Theatre Company's Night of New Works, Macha Monkey's Distillery series, FUSION Theatre Company's 'The Seven' Short Works Festival, as well as in *SOMA Magazine*, *Seattle Weekly* and Starbucks' "The Way I See It" campaign. Stacy holds an MA in English, an MFA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University, where he has served as a lecturer, and was awarded a Clark/Gross Novel Writing Award. He has also been awarded a Getty Fellowship to the Squaw Valley Community of Writers and a Gregory Capasso Award in Fiction from the University at Buffalo.

Performances will be Saturday at 8:00pm and Sunday at 2:00pm. Admission is \$15; \$10 for students and seniors. Every performance has 10 Pay-What-You-Can rush tickets (\$1 minimum). The Ethnic Cultural Theatre is located at 3940 Brooklyn Ave NE in Seattle. Free parking is available in University of Washington's lot W12, located at just south of the Ethnic Cultural Theater on Brooklyn Ave NE. Southside Commons is located at 3518 S Edmunds St in Seattle, about two blocks from the Columbia City light rail stop. For more information, please visit <https://mirrorstage.org>.

FACT SHEET

PRODUCER: Mirror Stage

PRODUCTION: Expand Upon: INCARCERATION/PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX staged reading

PLAYWRIGHTS: Alma Davenport and Stacy D. Flood

DIRECTOR: Suzanne M. Cohen

CAST: Rick Dupree, Anasofia Gallegos, Tim Hyland, Adria LaMorticella, Pablo Lopez, Corey Spruill, and Benjamin Symons

DATES AND TIMES: Performances are on Saturday, October 6 @ 8:00pm and Sunday, October 7 @ 2:00pm at the Ethnic Cultural Theatre; and Saturday, October 13 @ 8:00pm and Sunday, October 14 @ 2:00pm at Southside Commons.

VENUE: Performances are at the Ethnic Cultural Theatre, located at 3940 Brooklyn Ave NE near UW in Seattle; and Southside Commons, located at 3518 S Edmunds St in South Seattle.

TICKETS: Admission is \$15; \$10 for students and seniors. Every performance has 10 Pay-What-You-Can rush tickets (\$1 minimum). Advance tickets are only available online at <http://mirrorstage.org>. On-site box office opens an hour before performance.

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Mirror Stage's **Expand Upon** staged reading series explores **Incarceration and the Prison Industrial Complex** with plays by local Seattle playwrights Alma Davenport and Stacy D. Flood at the Ethnic Cultural Theatre and Southside Commons. A moderated discussion follows every performance.

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About Mirror Stage: Originally founded in 1991, Mirror Stage is a small professional theatre company reflecting the diversity of the community on stage in high quality, progressive, thought-provoking productions that play it smart without always playing it safe. The mission of Mirror Stage is to use the power of theatre to challenge assumptions, bias and prejudice, while encouraging

more thoughtful reflection on today's issues. We nurture unique artistic voices while providing opportunities for newly emerging artists to work alongside more seasoned professionals. More at <https://mirrorstage.org>.

Mirror Stage gratefully acknowledges the support of ArtsWA, the City of Seattle Office of Arts & Culture and the Posner-Wallace Foundation.

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