

**THE MARSH BRINGS DARRYL VAN LEER'S MOVING
MANDELA: LET FREEDOM REIGN
FOR AN EXCLUSIVE, ONE-NIGHT-ONLY PERFORMANCE
7:30pm, Saturday, February 6, 2021**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (14 January 2021) – The Marsh launches Black History Month with a live performance of Darryl Van Leer's electrifying one man play, *Mandela: Let Freedom Reign*, presented one-night-only on **MarshStream**. From his early life to his epic struggles against apartheid, Mandela comes to vivid life in this life-affirming performance. Van Leer's acclaimed performance ranges from Mandela's impassioned "I Am Prepared to Die" speech, delivered from the dock prior to being sentenced to life in prison, to a glimpse at the 27 years Mandela was unjustly incarcerated at the Robben Island Penitentiary, to his victorious release from prison and jubilant inaugural speech upon becoming The Republic of South Africa's first democratically elected Black President. An icon of democracy and social justice, Mandela's life-long dedication to promoting forgiveness and equality are celebrated in this stirring reminder of one man's incredible impact. *Mandela: Let Freedom Reign* will be presented 7:30pm, Saturday, February 6 on **MarshStream**. Prior to his performance of *Mandela: Let Freedom Reign*, playwright/performer Darryl Van Leer will appear on **Stephanie's MarshStream** at 7:30pm, Thursday, February 4 to discuss this work and perform a brief excerpt. For more information, the public may visit www.themarsh.org/marshstream. *NOTE: The performance will be LIVE only, not archived for later viewing.*

Darryl Van Leer (Playwright/Performer) has been declared "Emotionally riveting. An actor gifted with not only exceptional range and depth, but clear-eyed passion and intelligence. Nothing can prepare one for the power and emotionality the Van Leer delivers," by *Daily Variety*. He has shared the screen with James Earl Jones, Samuel Jackson, Gregory Harrison, Rue McClanahan, and Beau Bridges. Among his starring roles, Van Leer was a tough-love father in the movie, *First Time*, the story of Jackie Robinson, and co-starred with Gregory Harrison in Aaron Spelling's weekly series *Safe Harbor*. He became one of four finalists in TLC's *The*

Messengers series devoted to America's great inspirational speakers, has co-starred in TV shows including *One Tree Hill* and *Sheena*, and been featured in the HBO original movies, *The Second Civil War* and *Up Against the Wall*, Fox's *Steel Chariots* and NBC's *Witness to the Execution*.

ABOUT MARSHSTREAM

The program launched in April 2020 and has received overwhelmingly enthusiastic response, garnering over 75,000 viewers in its first nine months. Notable MarshStream moments thus far include the debut of MarshStream International Solo Fest, The Marsh's first-ever digital festival, and the U.S. premiere of *The Invisible Line*, a new documentary about one of the world's most famous social experiments gone wrong.

MarshStream programming varies daily, with Monday Night MarshStream (short performances by a variety of artists), Wild Card Tuesdays (everything from book/writer discussions, sing-alongs, Tell It On Tuesday, to Sound Healing and Restorative Yoga), Wednesday Solo Arts Heal (offering stories of health, advocacy, and inspiration), Stephanie's MarshStream on Thursday nights (interview and performance excerpts, moderated by The Marsh Founder/Artistic Director Stephanie Weisman), BINGO! hosted by Josh Kornbluth, and weekend Solo Performance Spotlight featuring live full-length performances. MarshStream also offers performance development classes, a noon series that includes CJ's FitnesSing weekly singing lesson/fitness class, and a Zoomba Room. Content is typically offered at 7:30pm nightly, and mid-day throughout the week via Zoom and YouTube LIVE. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic MarshStream has hosted 451 LIVE streams, providing some 200 performers a platform to continue developing and producing art.

MarshStream viewers are asked to contribute whatever they can afford. Donations can be made by joining The Marsh's membership program and via a virtual "tip jar" with funds going to support The Marsh and its artists. For more information, the public may visit www.themarsh.org/marshstream. NOTE: Most performance streams from earlier MarshStream dates are also available on the website for viewing.

In addition to nightly program offerings on MarshStream, The Marsh has also launched **Marsh Youth Theater (MYT) MarshStream**, classes offered at 4:00pm daily taught by MYT instructors. From Creative Dramatics to Storytelling, Dancing, and more, class types, instructors, and age levels vary for each class. For weekly class schedules and additional information, please visit themarsh.org/mytmarshstream.

ABOUT THE MARSH

The Marsh is known as "a breeding ground for new performance." It was launched in 1989 by Founder and Artistic Director Stephanie Weisman, and pre-COVID hosted more than 600 performances of 175 shows across the company's two venues in San Francisco and Berkeley. A leading outlet for solo performers, The Marsh's specialty has been hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as "solo performances that celebrate the power of storytelling at its simplest and purest." The *East Bay Times* named The Marsh one of Bay Area's best intimate theaters, calling it "one of the most thriving solo theaters in the nation. The live theatrical energy is simply irresistible."

For Calendar Editors

WHAT: The Marsh launches Black History Month with a live performance of Darryl Van Leer's electrifying one man play, ***Mandela: Let Freedom Reign***, presented one-night-only on **MarshStream**. From his early life to his epic struggles against apartheid, Mandela comes to vivid life in this life-affirming performance. Van Leer's acclaimed performance ranges from Mandela's impassioned "I Am Prepared to Die" speech, delivered from the dock prior to being sentenced to life in prison, to a glimpse at the 27 years Mandela was unjustly incarcerated at the Robben Island Penitentiary, to his victorious release from prison and jubilant inaugural speech upon becoming The Republic of South Africa's first democratically elected Black President. An icon of democracy and social justice, Mandela's life-long dedication to promoting forgiveness and equality are celebrated in this stirring reminder of one man's incredible impact.

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PRESS: Contact Sydney Albin, Carla Befera & Co.
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PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos are available here:
<http://cbpr.co/press/marshstream>