



For Immediate Release

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Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company Announces 2006 Season

San Diego, CA (February 15, 2006) – Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company, an organization dedicated to presenting socially conscious theatre and innovative arts education programs, announced today its 2006 season. As the company enters its third year of operations it unveils three unique and ambitious projects: ***The Adoption Project: TRIAD***, an original play created by Mo'olelo artists; ***Since Africa***, the West Coast Premiere of Mia McCullough's poignant play; and ***My Home***, a theatre and literacy education program for refugee and immigrant youth.

"Each of these projects focus on the theme of discovering home, whether it's biological in *TRIAD*, geographic in *Since Africa*, or found in the future of our youth as in *My Home*," said Artistic Director Seema Sueko. "Kimber Lee, the lead writer of *The Adoption Project: TRIAD*, has tackled the complicated subject of adoption with whimsy, humor and heart. *Since Africa* peels away the layers surrounding refugee resettlement and makes us realize that perhaps we've all been "lost" even in our own homes. And *My Home* will bring theatre to a group of students who might never have experienced it."

Two years in the making, ***The Adoption Project: TRIAD***, will be presented as a staged reading on **Monday, March 27 at 7 PM at Diversionary Theatre**. Created from interviews with real people and their experiences with the adoption process, the play was written collaboratively by Kimber Lee (*The Squirrel Wife*), as lead writer, with Seema Sueko and Kathryn Venverloh (*remains*) providing additional research and writing.

Since Africa, which will be presented as a full production in the fall, explores the challenges and complexities of refugee resettlement. The play focuses on two American volunteers, one Black and one White, who acclimate a "Lost Boy of Sudan" into urban America, revealing each of their own struggles about identity, home, acceptance, and forgiveness. Written by the recipient of the M. Elizabeth Osborn Award for up-and-coming playwright, Mia McCullough, *Since Africa* was originally produced by Chicago Dramatists in 2005.

My Home, a dynamic after school program for refugee and immigrant youth, will run from September through November. Designed to improve the students' literacy, expose them to theatre, and build their self-esteem, the project will culminate with the students' own performance of their original monologues and scenes about "my home."

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About Mo'olelo

Mo'olelo means *story* in Hawaiian. A recipient of the McDonald Playwriting and the Anti-Discrimination Awards, Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company is dedicated to broadening the scope of San Diego theatre by telling powerful stories that are as diverse as the islands of Hawaii. Its mission is to create new works based on research within various communities, produce lesser-known works by master and contemporary playwrights, and educate youth. Mo'olelo is committed to providing a living wage for local artists and works closely with Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers. To learn more, visit www.moolelo.net or call 619-342-7395.