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News



Woodie King, Jr. and Elizabeth Van Dyke

Elizabeth Van Dyke Named Artistic Director of New Federal Theatre

NEW YORK - **Woodie King Jr.**, Producing Director of **New Federal Theatre (NFT)**, has appointed actress, director, and producer **Elizabeth Van Dyke** as Artistic Director. King has admired Van Dyke's producing acumen since she co-founded "Going to the River" in 1999 at Ensemble Studio Theatre with the late Curt Dempster, an organization to develop, produce and provide a New York City 'home base' for a community of female playwrights of color. He was similarly impressed by her work as Artist Director of Gala presentations for The Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts & Humanities.

Woodie King, Jr.'s New Federal Theatre was founded in 1970 specializing in minority drama and became a launching place for many artists, playwrights, directors, and women. Many are well-known today, including Denzel Washington, Debbie Allen, Phylicia Rashad, S. Epatha Merkerson, Issa Rae, La Tanya Richardson Jackson, Samuel L. Jackson, Chadwick Boseman, Morgan Freeman, Robert Downey Jr., David Henry Hwang, Ed Bullins, J. e. Franklin, Ron Milner, Amiri Baraka, and hundreds more.

Ms. Van Dyke says her short-term creative goals as Artistic Director include "ensuring New Federal Theatre is involved in dialogues, initiatives, and coverage, locally, nationally, and that New Federal Theatre is recognized and valued for its artistry and longevity." She says it's "a great privilege and an honor to be groomed by such a master as Woodie King, Jr.," praising his knowledge of literature, theater and Black Theater, history, show business, and both nonprofit and commercial theater. "It's exciting and humbling to be trusted with a 50-year-old institution by its founder."

Ms. Van Dyke will oversee all of the company's programming and continue to uphold New Federal Theatre's mission "to integrate artists of color and women into the mainstream of American theater by training artists for the profession, and by presenting plays by writers of color and women to integrated, multicultural audiences - plays which evoke the truth through beautiful and artistic re-creations of ourselves."

For further information visit www.newfederaltheatre.com.