



THE CROWDED HOUR a new play written by David Mulei



Sound, sound the clarion, fill the fife

Throughout the sensual world proclaim,

One crowded hour of glorious life

Is worth an age without a name.

- Thomas Osbert Mordaunt

Summer, 1918. Sixty-year-old Theodore Roosevelt is ten years out of office and shattered by the news that his youngest son, Quentin, has been killed in action in World War I. With his three remaining sons still at the front, Theodore shoulders the blame for inspiring his reckless boys to self-destruction.

This highly-theatrical drama reveals the tragic psychological and spiritual conclusion of a life defined by tireless crusade. It is this six-month chapter, often glossed-

over in accounts of the great man's life, which strikingly reveals Theodore to be a man divided. Publicly, he struggles to mount an improbable political comeback. Privately, he stumbles through the darkness with his wife, Edith, and two daughters at their Sagamore Hill home in Oyster Bay, Long Island. As his once-powerful body and mind come apart, he is haunted by visions of three generations of Roosevelts.

It will prove to be Theodore's greatest battle, a resolute confrontation with the often violent traumas he has spent a lifetime trying to outrun.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

David Mulei's plays include *Household Effects* (foreign service, domestic drama), *Stubborn Things*, *The Crowded Hour*, and *The Best Places to Live*. His work has been developed in New York, Los Angeles, and Boston at Open Fist, Rogue Machine, and Arena Stage (TOA), among other venues. His television credits includes the final season of *Veronica Mars*. He is currently developing a screen adaptation of Judith Nies' acclaimed non-fiction book "Unreal City."

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Please visit Maureen Payne-Hahner's website at: www.maureenpaynehahner.com for an intensive listing of her work.

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