Upcoming ASL-Interpreted Performances

**Vietgone**
by QUI NGUYEN  
original music by SHANE RETTIG  
directed by MINA MORITA  
September 10 – October 16  
Wurtele Thrust Stage

A love-and-war comedy  
When Saigon falls in 1975, Quang and Tong, two Vietnamese refugees separated from their previous partners, have a sexy meet-cute in Arkansas that promptly becomes a no-strings-attached relationship to pass the time. Living in the land of “cheesburgers, waffle fries and cholesterol” (aka America) proves to be an intoxicating adventure that leads Quang and Tong to question their futures, both together and in their new country. Part history play and part memoir, this whip-smart comedy is punctuated with flashbacks and bursts of rap songs, all while giving unabashed reflections on American culture and offering a human-centered view of the Vietnam War and its aftermath.

**Sally & Tom**
by SUZAN-LORI PARKS  
directed by STEVE H. BROADNAX III  
October 1 – November 6  
McGuire Proscenium Stage

A groundbreaking world premiere  
Playwright Luce has sky-high hopes for her latest script, which examines the complex relationship between Sally Hemings and Thomas Jefferson. To catch the attention of more notable producers, Luce recruits her longtime collaborator (and lover) Mike to direct, and then casts herself and Mike in the lead roles. Their creative visions align at first, but things unravel quickly as they find themselves at odds and deeply entangled in Sally and Tom’s story. Acclaimed playwright and Pulitzer Prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks cleverly scrutinizes the realities of American history, past and present, through the lens of American theater.

ASL-Interpreted Performances  
Saturday, October 8 at 1 p.m.  
Friday, October 14 at 7:30 p.m.

This performance is  
ASL Interpreted.

American Sign Language Interpretation is offered for select performances. For more information about our award-winning access services, visit www.guthrietheater.org/access.

Accessibility programs sponsored by UNITED HEALTH FOUNDATION

**Sweat**

In 2008, two young men, Chris and Jason, meet with their parole officer in Reading, Pennsylvania. They’ve recently been released from prison, and running into each other deeply affects them. The play then jumps back to January 2000 when three friends are gathered at the local bar in a well-worn ritual to celebrate a birthday. Jessie, Cynthia and Tracey work at Olstead’s metal tubing factory — good jobs with a long history in Reading. Stan, the bartender, knows everyone from his days at the factory before he suffered an on-the-job injury. Keeping the tradition going, Cynthia and Tracey’s sons, Chris and Jason, also work at the factory, but they each have different dreams for their futures.

As the economy changes and NAFTA takes its toll, things are no longer as stable as they once were. Local companies have layoffs and lockouts, and rumors fly about changes at Olstead’s. But Reading is a union town, and everyone has faith in the union’s strength. Months later, after Cynthia is promoted to warehouse supervisor, cracks form in decades-old friendships and the rumors prove to be true. The events that follow test years of loyalty, and a moment of violence comes at a terrible price.
Character Signs

- Cynthia: "C" on chin
- Tracey: "T" on chin
- Jessie: "J" on lower cheek
- Chris: "C" on side of head
- Jason: "J" on side of head
- Stan: "S" on chest
- Brucie: "B" out in space
- Oscar: "O" out in space
- Evan: Fingerspelled

Meet the Interpreters

Maria Rodriguez-Dively is a trilingual interpreter from Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico. She is a 2009 graduate of North Central University majoring in Deaf Culture Ministry and has been a NIC-certified interpreter since 2011. Maria’s passion for theater started at a young age in Puerto Rico when she landed her first role as Maria in a school production of West Side Story. She has signed for many theaters in the Twin Cities, including the Guthrie Theater (The Bluest Eye, Noura, Zafira and the Resistance, What the Constitution Means to Me), Mixed Blood Theatre (Barbecue, Orange, Corazon Eterno, Safe at Home, Vietgone, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time), Theater Latté Da (Five Points), Brave New Workshop (Blackout, Lady and the Trump) and Orpheum Theatre (Hamilton, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Tyler Perry’s Madea’s Farewell, My Fair Lady, Frozen, The Prom).

James Gardner has been a nationally certified interpreter for more than 23 years, and he is excited to be interpreting in his 13th year with the Guthrie! A graduate of the University of Northern Iowa with a B.A. in Theatre Arts: Acting, James has toured nationally as an actor with several deaf theater companies, including Sunshine Too (Rochester, New York), National Theatre of the Deaf (Hartford, Connecticut) and Mixed Blood Theatre’s touring production of The Deaf Duckling. Some of his favorite ASL theater performances include shows at the Guthrie Theater (Tribes, The Taming of the Shrew, Guys and Dolls, South Pacific), Park Square Theatre (Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Richard III) and Broadway tours (Dear Evan Hanson, Rock of Ages, Wicked, Billy Elliot, Once, Rent, In the Heights).

Additional Terminology

- **UNION**: A club, society or association formed by people with a common interest or purpose.
- **WALK THE LINE**: When employees are on strike and picketing, which tells the employer that unless they end their dispute with the employees, there will be no business as usual.
- **CROSS THE LINE**: Agreeing to work or accepting a job when there is a dispute or strike between union workers and employees.