Little Shop of Horrors

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Inside

■ WELCOME
From Artistic Director Joseph Haj • 5

■ LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS
Creative Team, Cast and Musicians • 8
Scenes and Songs • 10
Biographies • 12

■ PLAY FEATURES
Forty Years To Dream Regional Theater • 22
A Classic Birthed From B Movies and Late-Night TV • 24
“Git” To Know the Cast • 26

■ SUPPORTERS
Annual Fund Contributors • 30
Corporate, Foundation and Public Support • 32

■ WHO WE ARE
Board of Directors and Guthrie Staff • 36
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From Artistic Director
Joseph Haj

Dear Friends,

When Howard Ashman pitched his idea for *Little Shop of Horrors*, he was met with more skepticism than enthusiasm for the project. A musical about a human-eating plant? It sounded preposterous — and risky. But the risk paid off. The show was an instant smash and became the highest-grossing production in off-Broadway history when it closed in 1987. To date, it remains one of the most-produced musicals in high school drama programs and has maintained its status as a nostalgic favorite for decades.

Whether you’re a fan of musicals, science fiction, horror movies or all of the above, there’s so much to love about *Little Shop of Horrors*. It has dark comedy, paranormal activity, urchins who belt Motown-inspired hits, big laughs and an even bigger heart. It can also be viewed as a fable for whatever is threatening society at the time of its telling: the threat of nuclear warfare in the 1960s, the era of greed in the 1980s or the obsession with celebrity in the 21st century.

And what a treat to have the fearless Marcia Milgrom Dodge directing and choreographing this beloved musical at the Guthrie — especially because she choreographed the first regional production of *Little Shop of Horrors* in 1985, making this a full-circle moment. It’s an honor to have her work on our stage, and her creative vision for this show is nothing short of brilliant. Prepare to be wowed by this outstanding company and the gritty, immersive world they’ve created just for you.

Welcome to Skid Row and enjoy the show!

Yours,

[Signature]
Little Shop till you drop.

Doo-wop your way to the Guthrie Store for stylish apparel, tasty treats and botanical-themed goods inspired by the human-eating plant that started it all. Check out what’s in season and snatch up your favorite finds before they’re gone.

Level One / guthriestore.com

DON’T FEED THE PLANT(ERS)!

Devour a special line of pots painted by members of the Guthrie’s Production Team. Each one-of-a-kind piece gives a nod to a specific design feature or character from Little Shop of Horrors. The pot showcased here was created by Head of Scenic Art Heidi Larson using the same colors as the floor of Mr. Mushnik’s flower shop.
Farmer Owned

 Entirely owned and operated by local farmers who make up the Minnesota Farmers Union.

Fresh + Local

 We are proud to serve fresh, high quality food directly from family farms to your plate.

Little Shop of Horrors includes depictions of physical violence and domestic abuse. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the U.S. have been subjected to a range of physical violence by a domestic or intimate partner.

If you or someone you know is being harmed, contact these local resources for support, awareness and help. If there is immediate danger, please call 911.

Minnesota Day One
(statewide)
www.dayoneservices.org
Hotline: 1.866.223.1111 (24/7)
Text: 612.399.9995

Domestic Abuse Project
(based in Minneapolis)
www.mndap.org/get-help-now
Hotline: 612.874.7063 | x232
(Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
Email: firstcall@mndap.org

Tubman
(based in Minneapolis with locations in Maplewood)
Hotline: 612.825.0000 (24/7)

Sojourner
(based in Hopkins)
Hotline: 952.933.7422 (24/7)
Little Shop of Horrors

book and lyrics by Howard Ashman
music by Alan Menken
based on the film by Roger Corman, screenplay by Charles Griffith
directed and choreographed by Marcia Milgrom Dodge

CREATIVE TEAM

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Denise Prosek

SCENIC DESIGNER
Lex Liang

COSTUME DESIGNER
Sully Ratke

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Allen Lee Hughes

SOUND DESIGNER
Matt Kraus

PUPPET DESIGNER
Chris Lutter

ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR
Jason Hansen

RESIDENT DRAMATURG
Carla Steen

VOCAL COACH
Keely Wolter

FIGHT DIRECTOR/INTIMACY BY
Annie Enneking

RESIDENT CASTING DIRECTOR
Jennifer Liestman

STAGE MANAGER
Lori Lundquist*

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS
Jason Clusman*
Matthew Meeks*

PUPPET CONSULTANT
Yvonne Freese

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Wesley Mouri

NYC CASTING CONSULTANT
McCorkle Casting, Ltd.

DANCE CAPTAIN/FIGHT CAPTAIN
Joey Miller*

Acknowledgments

Originally produced by the WPA Theatre (Kyle Renick, Producing Director).
Honored as ‘Certainly One of The Best of 2014’ by The Village Voice.

Originally produced at the Orpheum Theatre, New York City, by the WPA Theatre, David Geffen, Cameron Mackintosh and The Shubert Organization.

Little Shop of Horrors was originally directed by Howard Ashman with musical staging by Edie Cowan.

Vocal arrangements by Robert Billig.
Orchestrations by Robby Merkin.
CAST

in order of appearance

CHIFFON  Erica Durham*
CRYSTAL   Gabrielle Dominique*
RONNETTE  Vie Boheme*
MR. MUSHNIK Robert Dorfman*
AUDREY    China Brickey*
SEYMOUR KRELBORN Will Roland*
DENIZENS OF SKID ROW Time Brickey*
           David Darrow*
           Yvonne Freese
           Kiko Laureano*
           Joey Miller*
           T. Mychael Rambo*
ORIN AND OTHERS David Darrow*
AUDREY II PUPPETEER Yvonne Freese
AUDREY II LIVE VOICE T. Mychael Rambo*
ENSEMBLE   Time Brickey*
           Kiko Laureano*
           Joey Miller*

VOICE, NOT UNLIKE GOD

Paul Allen

Understudies
Understudies never substitute for performers unless announced prior to the performance.
Erica Durham* (Audrey); Jon Andrew Hegge* (Mr. Mushnik); Kiko Laureano* (Chiffon/Crystal);
Joey Miller* (Orin and Others/Denizen of Skid Row); Tom Reed (Audrey II Puppeteer/Denizen of
Skid Row); Carl Swanson* (Seymour Krelborn); Marisa B. Tejeda* (Ronnette/Denizen of Skid Row);
JoeNathan Thomas* (Audrey II Live Voice/Denizen of Skid Row)

MUSICIANS

PIANO/CONDUCTOR  Denise Prosek
KEYBOARD         Jason Hansen
GUITAR/MANDOLIN  Joe Cruz
BASS             Greg Angel
DRUMS/PERCUSION  Josh Carlson

*Member of Actors' Equity Association
SCENES AND SONGS

ACT ONE

Prologue
“Little Shop of Horrors” CHIFFON, CRYSTAL, RONNETTE

Scene One
“Skid Row” COMPANY
“Da Doo” SEYMOUR, CHIFFON, CRYSTAL, RONNETTE
“Grow for Me” SEYMOUR

Scene Two
“Ya Never Know” MR. MUSHNIK, SEYMOUR, CHIFFON, CRYSTAL, RONNETTE
“Somewhere That’s Green” AUDREY

Scene Three
“Closed for Renovation” SEYMOUR, AUDREY, MR. MUSHNIK
“Be a Dentist” ORIN, CHIFFON, CRYSTAL, RONNETTE
“Mushnik and Son” MR. MUSHNIK, SEYMOUR
“Suddenly Changes” SEYMOUR
“Git It” AUDREY II, SEYMOUR, CHIFFON, CRYSTAL, RONNETTE

Scene Four
“Now (It’s Just the Gas)” SEYMOUR, ORIN
“Act One Finale” AUDREY II, CHIFFON, CRYSTAL, RONNETTE

ACT TWO

Scene One
“Call Back in the Morning” SEYMOUR, AUDREY
“Suddenly Seymour” SEYMOUR, AUDREY, CHIFFON, CRYSTAL, RONNETTE
“Suppertime” AUDREY II, CHIFFON, CRYSTAL, RONNETTE

Scene Two
“The Meek Shall Inherit” SEYMOUR, CHIFFON, CRYSTAL, RONNETTE, OTHERS
“Sominex/Suppertime” (Reprise) AUDREY, AUDREY II
“Somewhere That’s Green” (Reprise) AUDREY
“Finale” COMPANY

SETTING

Skid Row, 1960s.

This production will be performed with one intermission.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Guthrie gratefully recognizes Bill and Penny George & The George Family Foundation as Platinum Producers; Lynn & Anders Myhran as Leading Producers; Margie & David Dines, Jennifer Melin Miller & David Miller and The Pincus Family as Producers; and Kenneth Glaser & Janet Heinrich, The Andrea & Brian Kalis Family, Iris & Jay Kiedrowski and Audrey & Jim Lucas as Associate Producers.

Marcia Milgrom Dodge dedicates this production to Roger Corman, the “King of B Movies” (1926–2024).
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Cast

China Brickey (Audrey) GUTHRIE Murder on the Orient Express, A Christmas Carol (four seasons). THEATER Regional (selected): Hello, Dolly! (Theater Latté Da); Murder on the Orient Express (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park); Redwood (Jungle Theater); Today Is My Birthday (Theater Mu); Pride and Prejudice, Romeo and Juliet (Park Square Theatre); Smokey Joe’s Cafe, Mamma Mia! (Ordway); Alice in Wonderland, Matilda the Musical, The Wiz, The Snowy Day (Children’s Theatre Company); Girl Shakes Loose (Penumbra Theatre). FILM/TELEVISION Various commercials. AWARDS 2020 City Pages Best Actor. TRAINING B.F.A., Acting, Minor in Music, Millikin University. @china.brickey (IG), www.chinabrickey.com

Time Brickey (Denizen of Skid Row/Ensemble) GUTHRIE Debut. THEATER Mercury Theater Chicago: Young Frankenstein, Chicago; Chicago Children’s Theatre: The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show; 5th Avenue Theatre: The Wiz; Theater Latté Da: Jelly’s Last Jam; Drury Lane Theatre: 42nd Street. FILM/TELEVISION Mind of Its Own (independent). OTHER Former principal dancer for M.A.D.D. Rhythms and Chicago Human Rhythm Project’s Stone Soup Rhythms; Performed in Dance for Life at the Harris Theater. UPCOMING White Christmas (Marriott Theatre). TEACHING Taught workshops for Chicago Human Rhythm Project’s Rhythm World, Las Vegas Tap Festival, Keane Sense of Rhythm and Dance Masters of Wisconsin; Currently on faculty at Visceral Dance Chicago. TRAINING B.M., Music Business, Millikin University. @time.brickey (IG), www.timebrickey.com

David Darrow (Orin and Others/Denizen of Skid Row) GUTHRIE The Tempest, Sunday in the Park With George, The Royal Family, The Parchman Hour, South Pacific, Juno and the Paycock, Crimes of the Heart, Skiing on Broken Glass. THEATER A.C.T.; Asolo Rep; Baltimore Center Stage; Florida Repertory Theatre; Actors Theatre of Louisville; Theater Latté Da; Ten Thousand Things; Project Y Theatre Company; 7th House Theatre. OTHER Composer and lyricist whose musicals have been developed and performed at theaters and residencies across the country. TRAINING Albright College; Currently pursuing an M.F.A. at Grad Acting, NYU Tisch School of the Arts

Gabrielle Dominique (Crystal) GUTHRIE Guys and Dolls, West Side Story (Francisca/Rosalia US), A Christmas Carol, Romeo and Juliet, South Pacific. THEATER Arena Stage: Ride the Cyclone (Constance Blackwood); The 5th Avenue Theatre: The Wiz; Ordway: West Side Story (Rosalia/Maria US); Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: Mamma Mia!; Children’s Theatre Company: Annie, I Come From Arizona; Theater Latté Da: Jelly’s Last Jam; Artistry: The 25th...Spelling Bee, Shrek, The Best Little Whorehouse..., Oklahoma!; Jungle Theater: Ride the Cyclone (Constance Blackwood). OPERA MN Opera: Flight. DANCE Collide Theatrical; Flying Foot Forum. OTHER Proud member of AEA. TRAINING B.A., Dance and Theater, St. Olaf College
Robert Dorfman (Mr. Mushnik) GUTHRIE The Tempest, Frankenstein – Playing With Fire, Indecent, Sense and Sensibility, The Critic/The Real Inspector Hound, Choir Boy, Freud’s Last Session, Uncle Vanya, The Merchant of Venice. THEATER Broadway: To Be or Not To Be, The Lion King, Social Security, The Drowsy Chaperone (first national tour); Off-Broadway: Classic Stage Company; Manhattan Theatre Club; Playwrights Horizons; The Public Theater; Second Stage Theater; Twin Cities: Martin Coren’s The Moneylender’s Daughter (Six Points Theater, world premiere)

Erica Durham (Chiffon/US: Audrey) GUTHRIE Debut. THEATER National Tours: Into the Woods, The Color Purple; Regional: Into the Woods (Arkansas Repertory Theatre); The Color Purple (The Muny/Broadway Sacramento); How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying (Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts); Marie and Rosetta (Vermont Stage). FILM/TELEVISION A Bread Factory, Parts One and Two. TRAINING B.F.A., Musical Theatre, Penn State University. @_ericadurham (IG)

Yvonne Freese (Audrey II Puppeteer/Denizen of Skid Row/Puppet Consultant) GUTHRIE Debut. THEATER National Tours: Mystery Science Theater 3000 Time Bubble Tour and The Great Cheesy Movie Circus Tour; Regional: Juan Bobo, Two Wheel Tour (Open Eye Theatre); Rough Cuts (Nautilus Music-Theater); Rigoletto, Amahl and the Night Visitors (Really Spicy Opera); Razia’s Shadow, Jabberwock (Phantom Chorus Theatre); Fancy Nancy (Stages Theatre Company). FILM/TELEVISION Mystery Science Theater 3000; “Garrison Keillor: The Man on the Radio in the Red Shoes” (PBS). OTHER On-Field Correspondent, St. Paul Saints; Member, Writers Guild of America; “Coco’s Barrio Podcast” (Teatro del Pueblo). TRAINING Wesley Balk Opera/Music-Theater Institute; B.A., B.M.E., Northern State University. @yifreeze (IG), www.yvonnefreese.com


T. Mychael Rambo (Audrey II Live Voice/Denizen of Skid Row)
**GUTHRIE** A dozen productions since 1995, most notably *Crowns* and *Caroline, or Change*. **THEATER** Tours: *Porgy and Bess*, *The Wiz*, *Dreamgirls*; Regional: Carnegie Hall; Arena Stage; Houston Opera; Opera Omaha; Europe: Paléo Festival (Switzerland, Germany and France); Twin Cities: Penumbra Theatre, Illusion Theater, Ordway, Ten Thousand Things, Theater Latté Da, Mixed Blood Theatre, Children’s Theatre Company. **FILM/TELEVISION** *Justice*, *Crossing the Bridge*, *The Cure*, *The Wooly Boys*, *Grumpy Old Men*, *The Mighty Ducks*; “Laurel Avenue” (HBO miniseries), “Equinox.” **AWARDS** Three Regional Emmy Awards; Two McKnight Artist Fellowships; Sally Ordway Irvine Award

Will Roland (Seymour Krelborn) **GUTHRIE** Debut. **THEATER** Broadway: *Be More Chill*, *Dear Evan Hansen*; New York/Regional: *Summer Stock* (Goodspeed Musicals); *The Black Suits* (Center Theatre Group/Barrington Stage Company). **FILM/TELEVISION** “Billions,” “Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt,” “Foul Play.” **OTHER** Cabaret: Joe Iconis & Family; *Loser Songs*. **AWARDS** 2017 Grammy Award; 2018 Emmy Award; Two Broadway.com Audience Choice Awards; 2018 Clive Barnes Award Finalist. @actually_will_roland (IG), @will_roland (X)


Paul Allen (Voice, Not Unlike God) **GUTHRIE** Debut. **BROADCAST** Voice of the Minnesota Vikings since 2002; KFAN FM 100.3 since 1998; Announcer for Canterbury Park since 1995. **NEWS** USA Today, Pasadena Star-News. **TRAINING** Pasadena City College. **AWARDS** Awarded the title “National Treasure” by LeBron James in 2022

Tom Reed (US: Audrey II Puppeteer/Denizen of Skid Row) GUTHRIE Debut. THEATER Ten Thousand Things: The Spitfire Grill; Theater Latté Da: Stones in His Pockets; Artistry: The 25th Annual…Bee; Jungle Theater: Georgiana & Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley; Mixed Blood Theatre: Interstate; Autonomy; Hooded, or Being Black for Dummies; Gloria; The Curious Incident…; Next to Normal; Avenue Q; Brave New Workshop: 18 mainstage productions; Open Eye Theatre: Loch Mess, Hairball, Log Jam; HUGE Improv Theater: Lounge-asaurus Rex, Creature Feature; History Theatre: Christmas of Swing. FILM/TELEVISION The Public Domain; “Lady Dynamite” (Netflix), “America Unearthed” (History Channel). TEACHING Brave New Workshop; HUGE Improv Theater. TRAINING Second City Conservatory; Concordia College, Moorhead. www.tomreed.com

Carl Swanson (US: Seymour Krelborn) GUTHRIE Debut. THEATER National Tour: NOEL the Musical; Regional: Beauty and the Beast (Ordway); Cinderella (Children’s Theatre Company); The Play That Goes Wrong (Old Log Theatre); The Boy Wonder, Blended Harmony (History Theatre); Crazy for You, The Pajama Game, Memphis, Wit, The Drowsy Chaperone (Artistry); The Reunion (Trademark Theater); Something Rotten!, Bright Star, If/Then (Lyric Arts); Silent Sky (Theatre Pro Rata); Shiftaced Shakespeare: A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Magnificent Bastard Productions). FILM/TELEVISION Sanctified, Orion 21, Marathon Mindset. UPCOMING Scotland, PA (Theater Latté Da). TRAINING B.A., Drama, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. @carldswan (IG), www.carldswanson.com

Marisa B. Tejeda (US: Ronnette/Denizen of Skid Row) GUTHRIE Debut. THEATER Regional: Passage (Pillsbury House Theatre); Emilia (Ten Thousand Things); Refuge; A Doll’s House, Part 2 (Unicorn Theatre); Georgiana & Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley (Jungle Theater); The Moors, The River Bride (American Players Theatre, US); The Old Man and the Old Moon (PigPen Theatre Company/KCRep); The Learned Ladies, The Winter’s Tale (The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey). FILM/TELEVISION Delicious Meal, Jill and the Wall. TEACHING Resident Teaching Artist (Ten Thousand Things). TRAINING M.F.A., Acting and Directing, KCRep/UMKC; Acting Apprentice, The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey; Intensive Ensemble Member, LAByrinth Theater Company; B.A., Theatre, Concordia University, St. Paul. @marisabee_ (IG), www.marisatejeda.com

JoeNathan Thomas (US: Audrey II Live Voice/Denizen of Skid Row) GUTHRIE Appomattox, The Burial at Thebes, A Christmas Carol. THEATER Yellow Tree Theatre: Once Upon a Time…Josephine Baker; Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: Jersey Boys, The Prom; Children’s Theatre Company: Annie, Once on This Island; Ten Thousand Things: Iphigenia at Aulis; History Theatre: Orphan Train; Mixed Blood Theatre: Dr. King’s Dream, Messy Utopia; Illusion Theater: A Play by Barb and Carl; Frank Theatre: CITIZEN. FILM/TELEVISION Everyday St. Nick (Disney), Justice (Nickle Films), Mother’s Day (Orion Pictures). UPCOMING Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: White Christmas
Creative Team

Howard Ashman (Book and Lyrics) was a pivotal creative mind behind the Disney Renaissance from 1989 to 1999 with films such as *The Little Mermaid*, *Aladdin* and *Beauty and the Beast*, which is dedicated to Ashman (“To our friend, Howard, who gave a mermaid her voice and a beast his soul”). His first love was theater; he was a founder of off-off-Broadway’s renowned WPA Theatre, where he conceived, wrote and directed *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater* as well as *Little Shop of Horrors* (both with music by Alan Menken). In 1986, he wrote and directed the Broadway musical *Smile* (music by Marvin Hamlisch). In his short career, Ashman received many awards, including an Outer Critics Circle Award, New York Drama Critics’ Circle Award and Drama Desk Award for *Little Shop of Horrors*; two Academy Awards and two Golden Globe Awards for *The Little Mermaid* and *Beauty and the Beast*; and multiple Grammy Awards.


Marcia Milgrom Dodge (Director/Choreographer) GUTHRIE Debut.

Theater

Broadway: *Ragtime* (revival); Off-Broadway: *Closer Than Ever, Romance in Hard Times*; Regional (selected): The Kennedy Center; Arena Stage; Bay Street Theater; The Cape Playhouse; Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park; Cleveland Play House; Drury Lane Theatre; La Jolla Playhouse; Maltz Jupiter Theatre; Olney Theatre Center; Pittsburgh Public Theater; The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis; The Muny.

Film/Television

Appears as herself on “Encore!” (Disney+); Choreographed The Muppets in an Emmy-winning episode of “Sesame Street.” Other

Tokyo Disneyland’s 40th Anniversary Parade “Harmony in Color”; *CCM Honors Stephen Flaherty* (Carnegie Hall); *The Music Man* (Glimmerglass/Royal Opera House).

Awards

Tony, Drama Desk, Astaire and Edgar Award nominations; Outer Critics Circle, Helen Hayes, Jeff, LA Drama Critics Circle and Carbonell Awards.

@marciamilgromdodge (IG)
Denise Prosek (Music Director) GUTHRIE Into the Woods; Associate: Guys and Dolls, West Side Story, My Fair Lady. THEATER Composer/Lyricist: I Am Betty; Theater Latté Da (Co-Founder): Chicago, Twelve Angry Men, Ragtime; Children's Theatre Company: A Year With Frog and Toad, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Peter Pan; Park Square Theatre: The Pirates of Penzance, The Color Purple; Theater Mu: Again, Into the Woods. OTHER Founder of Prosody, a songwriting collaborative; TPT’s “Minnesota Original.” AWARDS 2013–2014 Playwrights’ Center McKnight Theater Artist Fellow; 2012 Lavender Theater Artist of the Year; Best Music Director for Evita, Parade and Gypsy. TRAINING B.Mus., Piano Performance, St. Olaf College

Lex Liang (Scenic Designer) GUTHRIE Shane, Vietgone, Emma. THEATER Off-Broadway: 50+ productions; Regional (selected): Actors Theatre of Louisville; Alliance Theatre; Asolo Rep; Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park; Cleveland Play House; Dallas Theater Center; Denver Center; Geva Theatre; La Jolla Playhouse; Long Wharf Theatre; Maltz Jupiter Theatre; Paper Mill Playhouse; Pasadena Playhouse; Portland Center Stage; Syracuse Stage; Woolly Mammoth. OTHER Founder/Owner of LDC Design Associates, an experiential event design and production company in New York City; Recent projects/clients include Absolut Vodka, Johnson & Johnson, Invesco, The Kardashians, Tony Awards Gala, NY Fashion Week, NYC Wine & Food Festival and William Hill Winery. www.alexliang.com

Sully Ratke (Costume Designer) GUTHRIE Debut. THEATER Chicago-based theathermaker and associate of Lookingglass Theatre Company who has been working around the country in theaters such as Steppenwolf (Chicago), The Muny and The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis (St. Louis), McCarter Theatre Center (Princeton), Arena Stage (Washington, D.C.), Alliance Theatre (Atlanta), South Coast Repertory (Costa Mesa), Arkansas Repertory Theatre (Little Rock) and KCRep (Kansas City). AWARDS Her costume work has been nominated for multiple awards in Chicago, Los Angeles, St. Louis and Atlanta. @sully.ratke (IG), www.sullyratke.com

Allen Lee Hughes (Lighting Designer) GUTHRIE The Importance of Being Earnest; Crowns; Once in a Lifetime; Ah, Wilderness! You Can’t Take It With You; Big White Fog; Death of a Salesman; Fantasio. THEATER Broadway: Topdog/Underdog, Ohio State Murders, A Soldier’s Play, Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Clybourne Park, Having Our Say, Mule Bone, Once on This Island, K2, Strange Interlude, Accidental Death of an Anarchist, Quilters; Regional: A.C.T.; Arena Stage; Seattle Rep; Goodman Theatre; Mark Taper Forum; Roundabout Theatre Company; Playwrights Horizons. AWARDS Four Tony nominations; Outer Critics Circle Award; USITT Distinguished Achievement Award; Michael Merritt Award for Excellence in Design and Collaboration; Two Helen Hayes Awards; The BIPOC Fellowship at Arena Stage bears his name
Matt Kraus (Sound Designer) Guthrie Debut. Theater Broadway: Liza’s at the Palace..., Kristin Chenoweth: My Love Letter to Broadway, Kathy Griffin Wants a Tony; Off-Broadway: Emmet Otter’s Jug-Band Christmas, The Caucasian Chalk Circle, 50 Shades! The Musical, Fat Camp, Lone Star Love, Cam Jansen, Voca People; Regional: Paper Mill Playhouse; The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis; Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park; Walnut Street Theatre; Maltz Jupiter Theatre; Barrington Stage Company; Ogunquit Playhouse; Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. Film/Television Audio Coordinator: “The Tonight Show” remote shoots; NBA’s “2020 Reboot Bubble.” Other The Spotlight Bar and Stage Struck for Princess Cruises; Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra’s Yuletide Celebration. Awards Daytime Emmy Award (“Disney’s Broadway Hits at Royal Albert Hall”). Training B.F.A., Theater, University of Cincinnati CCM

Chris Lutter (Puppet Designer) Guthrie The Winter’s Tale. Theater Designer, inventor, theateermaker and community educator whose work revolves around the design, construction and performance of puppets, masks, props, costumes, theatrical inventions, kinetic sets and interactive sculptural installations. He produces art predominantly from waste-stream materials, exploring the unique potentials inherent in the material. He is Artistic Director of Big Animal Productions, LLC, a scenic and public art production company based in the Seward neighborhood of South Minneapolis. Teaching Minnesota State Arts Board; COMPAS Teaching Artist. Awards 2006 Bush Artist Fellowship; 2008 Public Art Saint Paul Sustainable Practices Fellowship; 2012 McKnight Theater Artist Fellowship; 2014 Forecast/McKnight Professional Development Grant. www.christopherlutter.com

Jason Hansen (Associate Music Director) Guthrie Into the Woods, Guys and Dolls. Theater Theater Latté Da: 18 productions, including Stones in His Pockets, Christmas at the Local, Falsettos, Next to Normal, Merrily We Roll Along, Jelly’s Last Jam, Bernarda Alba, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, A Little Night Music, Once and Assassins; Children’s Theatre Company: An American Tail, Cinderella, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, The Sneetches; Mixed Blood Theatre; Ten Thousand Things; Arkansas Repertory Theatre; Northern Sky Theater; Ordway; Illusion Theater; Artistry; TigerLion Arts; Open Eye Theatre; Jungle Theater. Other Diary of a Wimpy Kid (album); Composer/Orchestrator. Awards MN Theater Award for Exceptional Performative Direction (Assassins at Theater Latté Da). www.jasonhansen.com

Carla Steen (Resident Dramaturg) Guthrie More than 85 productions since 1996; Musicals include Into the Woods, Guys and Dolls, West Side Story, Sunday in the Park With George, The Cocoanuts, The Pirates of Penzance, Martin Guerre and Sweeney Todd. Theater Dramaturgy: The Acting Company; University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater B.F.A. Acting Program; Hammerstein Center; NYU Tisch School of the Arts; Augsburg University. Professional Affiliations Member of Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA). Training M.F.A., Columbia University; B.A., Augsburg University

18 | GUTHRIE THEATER
Keely Wolter (Vocal Coach)  
**GUTHRIE**  
Theater Latté Da: Chicago, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, Five Points, Assassins, Man of La Mancha, Six Degrees of Separation, Peter and the Starcatcher, Ragtime, Lullaby, Sweeney Todd, All Is Calm; Jungle Theater: Georgiana & Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley, The Wickhams, Miss Bennet, Lone Star Spirits, Le Switch, Constellations; Penumbra Theatre: benevolence, Wedding Band; MN Opera: The Fix. **TRAINING**  
Royal Central School of Speech and Drama; Viterbo University

Annie Enneking (Fight Director/Intimacy)  
**GUTHRIE**  
Skeleton Crew, the History Plays, A Raisin in the Sun. **THEATER**  
Fight Direction: She Kills Monsters, Troilus and Cressida (UMN); Man of La Mancha, Cabaret (Theater Latté Da); Hand to God, Noises Off (Jungle Theater); Of Mice and Men, Cyrano (Park Square Theatre); Cambodian Rock Band, Man of God (Theater Mu); Antigonick, Anon(ymous) (Full Circle Theater); Hamlet, Macbeth (Shakespearean Youth Theatre); Intimacy Direction: Extremities, Fool for Love (Dark & Stormy Productions); Bernhardt/Hamlet (Theatre Pro Rata); Life Sucks (Girl Friday).  
**MUSIC**  
Founder of the band Annie and the Big Bang.  
**TEACHING**  
Stage Violence, University of Minnesota.  
**AWARDS**  
Grants: MSAB; MRAC; Jerome Foundation; 2010 McKnight Theater Artist Fellowship

Jennifer Liestman (Resident Casting Director)  
**GUTHRIE**  
Artistic Team member since 2003; More than 70 productions, workshops and readings since 2015, including the History Plays, Dial M for Murder, ‘Art’, For the People, The Importance of Being Earnest, Shane, Into the Woods, Murder on the Orient Express, Hamlet, The Little Prince, Sally & Tom, Vietgone, Sweat, A Raisin in the Sun, The Tempest, A Christmas Carol, Dickens’ Holiday Classic, Noura, Floyd’s, West Side Story, Familiar, Watch on the Rhine and Disgraced.  
**FILM/TELEVISION**  
Casting Consultant: Master Servant.  
**TEACHING**  
University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater B.F.A. Acting Program; Other universities in MN and the U.S.  
**TRAINING**  
B.A., Theatre, MSU Moorhead

Lori Lundquist (Stage Manager)  
**GUTHRIE**  
Stage Manager: For the People, Into the Woods, The Little Prince, Vietgone, Guys and Dolls; Assistant Stage Manager: A Raisin in the Sun.  
**THEATER**  
Broadway: Fosse, The Best Man, Holiday; Off-Broadway: Head of Passes with Phylicia Rashad (The Public Theater); Julie Taymor’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream (TFANA); MCC Theater; Vineyard Theatre; Signature Theatre; Shakespeare in the Park; Roundabout Theatre Company; Playwrights Horizons; Second Stage Theater; Minetta Lane Theatre; NYTW; NYSAF; Regional: Ford’s Theatre; Ordway; Hartford Stage; Long Wharf Theatre; McCarter Theatre Center; Alley Theatre; Trinity Rep; KCrep.  
**OPERA**  
MN Opera; Indianapolis Opera; Opera Memphis; New York City Opera.  
**TRAINING**  
B.A./B.S., Bemidji State University
Jason Clusman (Assistant Stage Manager) GUTHRIE Stage Manager/Assistant Stage Manager: Over 50 productions, most recently including the History Plays, A Christmas Carol and Shane. THEATER History Theatre; Ten Thousand Things; Theater Latté Da; The Moving Company; Shapiro & Smith Dance; QuickSilver Productions; Three Legged Race Productions; Playwrights’ Center; Penumbra Theatre; Minnesota Centennial Showboat; Walker Art Center: Ocean. OTHER North Star Events, including COVID-19 testing and vaccination efforts for the state of Minnesota and 2023 inauguration events for Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan. TRAINING B.A., University of Minnesota


McCorkle Casting, Ltd. Pat McCorkle, C.S.A., and Rebecca Weiss, C.S.A. (NYC Casting Consultant for 2023–2024 Season) GUTHRIE 100+ productions since 1998. THEATER Broadway: 50+ productions, including On the Town, Amazing Grace, End of the Rainbow and A Few Good Men; Off-Broadway: 60+ productions, including Tribes, Our Town and Driving Miss Daisy; Regional: Hundreds of regional theaters, including Barrington Stage Company, George Street Playhouse and Connecticut Repertory Theatre. FILM/TELEVISION Currently casting six feature films for theatrical release; Previously, over 75 films, including three recent films for Hallmark, Premium Rush, Ghost Town, The Thomas Crown Affair, Die Hard With a Vengeance and Thirteenth Warrior; Select TV credits include “Twisted” (ABC), Humans for “Sesame Street,” “Californication” (Emmy Award nomination) and “Chappelle’s Show.” www.mccorklecasting.com
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In 1983, Garland Wright staged *Guys and Dolls* at the Guthrie, and it became the theater’s biggest hit up to that point, helping Wright land his future role of Artistic Director at the Guthrie. The production was a sudden burst of light for nonprofit arts leaders who had never considered producing musicals outside of Broadway.

One catch — they needed choreographers. Where would they find highly skilled collaborators to shape the musical staging? I was the lucky girl in the right place at the right time.

In 1985, after choreographing a few off-off-Broadway and summer stock musicals, my resume landed on the desk of Steven Woolf at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis as he was assembling his team for *Little Shop of Horrors*. I got the job, and my career went into high gear. For the next 10 years, I was the “Queen of the Regionals,” but one theater eluded me: the Guthrie. This is the story of one freelancer’s 40-year journey to get a job at the theater that inadvertantly launched her career.

First, a little backstory.

In 1963, Sir Tyrone Guthrie, Oliver Rea and Peter Zeisler launched the Guthrie Theater with a production of *Hamlet*, ultimately becoming the prototype for an important new kind of theater — regional theater with a resident acting company that would perform the classics in rotating repertory with the highest professional standards.

While this was all happening, I was growing up in Detroit and Southfield, Michigan. My sisters and I took tap, jazz and piano lessons, and my parents took us to movie musicals at the Fox Theatre and pre-Broadway tryouts at the Fisher Theatre.

The summer following my high school graduation, I began studying at the University of Michigan. My oldest sister, Carole, was accompanying auditions for the University of Michigan’s Summer Repertory Theatre production of *The Roar of the Greasepaint, the Smell of the Crowd*. I went to the audition, was cast as the “Yellow Urchin” and had the best summer. That was it. I was hooked. I wanted to choreograph in the theater for the rest of my life.

While I was gaining experience, the Guthrie produced the aforementioned *Guys and Dolls* on their mainstage in 1983. Regional theaters couldn’t help but follow the Guthrie’s lead and add
more popular fare to their programming. Not every theater produced *Guys and Dolls*, but Stage West in Springfield, Massachusetts, did, and I got to choreograph it.

I never considered making a career in regional theater beyond the tristate area. I was focused on “making it” in New York, but I had heard of the Guthrie in Minneapolis and their celebrated productions. After choreographing the regional premiere of *Little Shop of Horrors* in St. Louis, I packed my bags and began hopscotching across the country, choreographing musicals with some of the best directors. To date, I’ve worked in over 60 theaters across the country.

Now, let’s jump to 2023.

I was scrolling through Facebook when I saw a colleague’s post about the Guthrie’s 2023-2024 Season. When I saw the *Little Shop of Horrors* director was listed as “TBD,” I reached out to Senior Artistic Producer Tracy Brigden to throw my hat into the ring. Five days later, Artistic Director Joseph Haj invited me to direct and choreograph this production of *Little Shop*.

When my acclaimed revival of *Ragtime* opened on Broadway, I was asked for six words to describe how I felt. I said, “Thirty years to an overnight success.”

But that’s not really true. My success was not “overnight.” My success is not measured by my Broadway debut. My success is marked by endurance, staying sharp and relevant, making theater for diverse communities, tailoring my productions to varied audiences, honing my craft and staying in the game.

Today I say these six words: “Forty years to dream regional theater!”

I began my regional theater career in earnest in 1985 choreographing the first regional production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, and now, almost 40 years later, I get the opportunity to reimagine it for the Guthrie. The Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. I’m home.
A Classic Birthed From B Movies and Late-Night TV

By Carla Steen
Resident Dramaturg

The late filmmaker Roger Corman was known as the “King of B Movies” — those schlock, low-budget movies intended for drive-ins and double features. Between 1954 and 1960, he directed 28 B movies, including Swamp Women, Attack of the Crab Monsters, A Bucket of Blood and, in 1960, The Little Shop of Horrors.

According to Corman, Little Shop came about as follows: He learned about a still-standing set from another film company. After shooting A Bucket of Blood in five days, he wanted to make another comedy-horror picture and now challenged himself to do it in two days. Corman rented the set and, with screenwriter Charles Griffith, devised a story reusing much of Bucket’s structure and tone, centering on a bloodthirsty plant. For the project, initially titled The Passionate People Eater, actors worked five days — rehearsing for three and shooting, indeed, for only two days (not counting exterior night shoots).

The film features feckless floral assistant Seymour with a crush on his co-worker Audrey (originally spelled Audry), their boss, the aforementioned bloodthirsty plant, a sadistic dental patient played by a young Jack Nicholson, and Mrs. Shiva, a floral shop regular because of frequent family funerals. (Keen-eared audience members will hear shout-outs to Mrs. Shiva and Corman in “Closed for Renovation” and “Call Back in the
Morning” respectively.) Retitled *The Little Shop of Horrors*, the film cost $36,000 and became a moderate success.

Teenager Howard Ashman encountered the film in its second life as a cult classic on late-night TV. Lyricist-librettist Ashman met composer Alan Menken in 1978 through a musical theater workshop led by Lehman Engel, who recommended they work together. Their first collaboration, an adaptation of Kurt Vonnegut’s *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*, premiered in 1979 at the off-off-Broadway WPA Theatre, where Ashman was Artistic Director. For their next collaboration, “I was looking for a project that had something special about it that nobody had done before,” said Ashman. “The idea of doing a monster movie for the stage — not a horror movie, but a monster movie for the stage … I don’t think anyone’s ever done that, certainly not as a musical.”

After negotiating with Corman for the stage rights, the pair began the musical in 1981. They dropped many of the film’s supporting characters, expanded the role of the dentist and added the girl-group trio of urchins. Perhaps most importantly, they focused on Seymour, Audrey, Mr. Mushnik and the plant Audrey II while raising the emotional stakes (spoiler alert!) by making the victims of Seymour’s criminality those closest to him. Musically, the pair went retro, choosing styles fitting of the film’s 1960s period.

Little Shop of Horrors premiered at the WPA Theatre on May 6, 1982, under Ashman’s direction. Audiences were immediately enthusiastic, and the critical reception was positive as well. Hopes for a commercial run led to hiring a general manager, who put together a team consisting of theater producer Cameron Mackintosh, record producer David Geffen and theater owners The Shubert Organization. *Little Shop* moved from the 98-seat WPA Theatre to the 347-seat off-Broadway Orpheum Theatre in July and won Drama Desk, New York Drama Critics’ Circle and Outer Critics Circle Awards for Best Musical.

Successful productions followed in Los Angeles and London in 1983 before opening in more countries and languages shortly thereafter. Returning to its film roots, the movie musical was released in 1986. Through professional and high school productions alike, the musical remains popular, capturing the imagination of successive generations with its mix of comedy, horror, puppets and tuneful music. Dozens of productions are planned in the U.S., U.K. and Canada for the remainder of 2024 alone.

Little Shop demonstrates that one never knows where the next classic may emerge and from what inspiration: “The plant monster, Audry Jr., made a deep and lasting impression,” wrote Ashman, recalling the Corman film. “‘Feed me, Krelborn, feed me now!’ The words were never to leave my adolescent consciousness. Here, at last, was a monster I could quote! I mean, can you remember any of Godzilla’s snappy one-liners?”

EXPLORE MORE
Scan the code or visit guthrietheater.org to read our play guide.
“Git” To Know the Cast

What is your favorite plant (other than Audrey II, of course)?

Robert Dorfman
Mr. Mushnik
Date palms.

Kiko Laureano
Denizen of Skid Row/Ensemble
I’m bad at keeping plants alive, so I love my Lego® succulents!

Erica Durham
Chiffon
Succulents.

Tom Reed
Understudy
There’s an amazing red maple in Theodore Wirth Regional Park that puts on a technicolor SHOW every fall! And it never demands blood.

Yvonne Freese
Audrey II Puppeteer/Denizen of Skid Row
I love plants! I have over 50 houseplants ... I have a problem.
What excites you about being in *Little Shop of Horrors*?

**Will Roland**  
Seymour Krelborn  
I feel fortunate to work on one of the best musicals ever written at one of America’s finest theater institutions! Minneapolis, here I come!

**Carl Swanson**  
Understudy  
Seeing how the plant takes shape and the audience reacts to this dark comedy.

**Joey Miller**  
Denizen of Skid Row/Ensemble  
The MUSIC!

**China Brickey**  
Audrey  
I’m looking forward to building my version of Audrey: She’s so beautifully tragic and layered and hilarious — I can’t wait! Also, this is the first time my brother [Time Brickey] and I have worked together professionally. The last show we did was *Little Shop* in high school. Wild, right?

**David Darrow**  
Orin and Others/Denizen of Skid Row  
I’m excited to play a whole menagerie of villainous creeps!
ENGLISH

by SANAZ TOSSI
directed by HAMID DEHGHANI

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– Director Hamid Dehghani

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At U.S. Bank, we believe art enriches and inspires our community. That’s why we support the visual and performing arts organizations that push our creativity and passion to new levels. When we test the limits of possible, we find more ways to shine.

Enriching lives, inspiring new possibilities.

U.S. Bank is proud to support Guthrie Theater.
The Modern Law Firm.

Celebrating those who create theater experiences that build community.

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Lea Moore

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Luke Gerhardt

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Aine O’Donnell
Em Rode

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Louisa Schirmacher
Esaup Sponsler
Alex Stevenson
Diego Symoukavah

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**Director of Retail and Merchandising**
Kay McGuire

**Accessibility Coordinator**
Robyn DeCourcy

**Lead Stage Door Attendant**
Hunter Goldsmith

**Lead Public Safety Specialist**
Joy Showalter

**Public Safety Specialist and Facilities Administrative Assistant**
Frankie Sieg

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Cedar Eugenio
Monroe Hill Jr.
Nayblut Kasuh
Monroe Hill Jr.
Cedar Eugenio

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Marc Zelle

**Director of Community Engagement**
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**Resident Casting Director**
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**Associate Producer**
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**Director of Education and Professional Training**
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**Education Program Manager**
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**Professional Training Program Manager**
Jeremy Jones

**Education and Professional Training Coordinator**
Berto Borroto

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**Resident Dramaturg**
Carla Steen

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Isaih Langowski
Shay Mohamed

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Jacob Hopson

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Joseph Haj*

**Executive Assistant to the Director**
Alise Hansen

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Tracy Brigden*

**Associate Producer**
Addie Gorlin-Han

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Maija Garcia

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**Resident Dramaturg**
Carla Steen

**Director of Community Engagement**
Amanda White

**Community Engagement Associate**
Blossom Johnson

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**Chair**
Jennifer Reedstrom Bishop

**Past Chair**
John Junek

**Director**
Joseph Haj

**Treasurer**
David Dines

**Secretary**
Suran W. Allen

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Abdhis Bhavsar
Michael J. Blum
Peter Brew
Amy Fiterman
Darrel German
Todd Hartman
Diana Hofstede
Timothy A. Huebsch
David Hurrell
Darrel German
Amy Fiterman
Peter Brew
Michael J. Blum

**WHO WE ARE**

**Managing Director**
Trisha Kirk*

**Assistant to the Managing Director**
Alise Hansen

**Development Events Manager**
Sara Wabrowetz

**Campaign Coordinator**
Tsiang Belgrove

**Manager**
Kristina Sorum

**Individual Giving Manager**
Emily Rojer Hurley

**Grants Manager**
Communications and Development Engagement
Sarah Stout Miller

**Director of Individual Giving**
Leonard "Len" Crothall

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Nayblut Kasuh
Monroe Hill Jr.
Cedar Eugenio

**Director of Audience Services**
Marc Zale

**Director of Audience Services**
Patti Jo Verdeja
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
Many volunteers give their time and talents in support of the Guthrie’s activities. If you’d like to support the Guthrie by becoming a volunteer, apply at guthrietheater.org or email volunteers@guthrietheater.org.

The Guthrie is a member of the League of Resident Theatres.
The Guthrie is a member of the American Arts Alliance and Minnesota Citizens for the Arts, government advocacy groups at the federal and state levels, respectively.

The actors and stage managers employed in this production are members of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the U.S.

Directors and choreographers are members of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

The scenic, costume, lighting, sound and projection designers in LORT theaters are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

Guthrie scenic artists are also represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829.

Guthrie costume and wardrobe employees, stagehands and craftspersons are represented by IATSE Local 13.

All the music in this production is performed by members of the American Federation of Musicians, career professional musicians in good standing of the Twin Cities Musicians Union Local 30-73.

All scenery, props and costumes are designed specifically for Guthrie productions and built in the theater’s shops.

OUR MISSION
The Guthrie Theater engages exceptional theater artists in the exploration of both classic and contemporary plays connecting the community we serve to one another and to the world. Through its extraordinary artists, staff and facility, the Guthrie is committed to the people of Minnesota and, from its place rooted deeply in the Twin Cities, influences the field as a leading 21st-century arts organization.

OUR VISION
The Guthrie creates transformative theater experiences that ignite the imagination, stir the heart, open the mind and build community through the illumination of our common humanity.

OUR CORE VALUES

Artistic Excellence

Community

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility

Fiscal Responsibility
24/25 SEASON

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Sep 18 - Oct 20, 2024

RODERS + HAMMERSTEIN’S
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SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW ON SALE
More information at LATTEDAO.ORG
Meet the Match. Make the Magic.

As a nonprofit theater, the Guthrie relies on charitable support from patrons like you.

Your donation helps create the magic you see onstage, provide discount ticket programs and offer invaluable education and access opportunities for our community.

Please consider becoming a donor today to support the art and artists you love. A generous match of $100,000 will double all gifts until August 31!

EVERY GIFT MATTERS
Scan the code or visit www.guthrietheater.org/donate to give. Thank you!