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**GUTHRIE ANNOUNCES 2016-2017 DOWLING STUDIO LOCAL PRESENTATIONS**

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*)—The Guthrie Theater today announced details and dates of the 2016-2017 Dowling Studio presentations on Level Nine, including new work by returning local companies as well as first-time local partnerships. All tickets for productions in the Dowling Studio are \$9, and go on sale July 20, 2016. To purchase tickets, call the Guthrie Theater Box Office 612.377.2224 or toll-free 877.44.STAGE and online at [guthrietheater.org](http://guthrietheater.org).

Guthrie Artistic Director **Joseph Haj** said, “In addition to the previously announced Guthrie-produced Studio programming, which includes *Hold These Truths*, *We Are Proud to Present...* and *The Holler Sessions*, an important part of our Level Nine Initiative is our continued collaboration with dynamic local theater companies whose art gets to the soul of who we are as a community. Today, I am pleased to announce the following lineup of local presentations, which rounds out the programming for the 2016-2017 Season in the Dowling Studio. As a theater, it is our duty to explore new perspectives in order to be nimble and responsive to our community and the concerns we face, and, taken together, these shows remind us that great art invites valuable conversation.”

**Lauren Ignaut**, the Guthrie’s director of studio programming, added, “We’re excited to announce this lineup of programming that features the work of artists who make their lives in Minnesota. These local collaborating companies are eager to facilitate connections and enrich conversations in our larger community through the Guthrie’s new Level Nine Initiative.”

The season begins with a presentation of **zAmya Theater Project’s *Home Street Home: Minneapolis***, written by the zAmya Theater troupe with playwright Josef Evans and directed by Maren Ward. Described as a hyper-local conversation regarding housing and homelessness in Minneapolis and our neighborhood of East Downtown, *Home Street Home: Minneapolis* was inspired by interviews with people who live, work, play and pray downtown. The project, a program of St. Stephen’s Human Services, brings together homeless and housed individuals to create and perform theater. *Home Street Home: Minneapolis* follows street musician Zeke Cooper on a tour around the heart of the city where he’ll eavesdrop on skyway security guards and hear from residents in family shelters, condo dwellers, downtown church-goers, Vikings fans and panhandlers. Listen in as characters share experiences and change each other’s lives. Like many of zAmya’s productions, *Home Street Home: Minneapolis* blends lived experience with comedy, satire, spoken word and song. Performances will run September 16 – 25, 2016.

**7<sup>th</sup> House Theater** returns to Level Nine from November 18 – December 4, 2016 with the world premiere of an intimate new musical about a young woman confronting her past and her mortality. After two successful runs in the Dowling Studio with *Jonah and the Whale: A New Musical* (2014) and *The Great*

*Work* (2015), 7<sup>th</sup> House will bring a third musical to life on Level Nine. A young company including local standouts Cat Brindisi, David Darrow, AJ Longabaugh, Derek Prestly and Grant Sorenson, 7<sup>th</sup> House Theater is dedicated to creating new, innovative and re-imagined stage productions that emphasize the power of music as a theatrical element.

Next up is a new work by groundbreaking local company **Transatlantic Love Affair** which will run January 27 - February 12, 2017. Transatlantic Love Affair, helmed by artistic director Isabel Nelson, is a physical theater ensemble specializing in collaboratively created, original storytelling. Winner of *City Pages'* Best Theater Troupe in 2016, Transatlantic Love Affair commits themselves to the belief that the human body is the ultimate theatrical instrument. The company has created seven original works: *Ballad of the Pale Fisherman*, *Red Resurrected*, *Ash Land*, *These Old Shoes*, *Solitaire*, *105 Proof; or, The Killing of Mack "The Silencer" Klein* and *Emilie/Eurydice*. All productions have been recognized for their exceptional quality, establishing Transatlantic Love within the vibrant Twin Cities theater community and beyond. Directed by Isabel Nelson and Diogo Lopes, conceived by Lopes and created by the ensemble, this new piece re-imagines the story of Hansel and Gretel as a tale of immigration, and investigates what forces can compel one to leave their family and home to venture on a journey through the dark and tangled unknown in search of something better.

Continuing the conversation between Minnesota veterans, military families and the Minnesota community at large, **The Telling Project** returns to Level Nine with *Echo War*. Since 2008, The Telling Project has put more than 200 military veterans and military family members on stages in communities around the country to tell their stories. *Echo War* will shed light on veteran suicide with the aim of de-stigmatizing this complex reality for many involved in military service. The production will gather a group of previous Telling Project performers from across the country and give them an opportunity to share their experiences. *Echo War* will be an intimate contemplation on the value of life, what constitutes meaning and purpose, and the necessity of deeper connections with each other – as individuals, communities and as a society. Performances run March 17 – April 2, 2017.

**Mu Performing Arts** will also return to the Studio with the regional premiere of Lloyd Suh's *Charles Francis Chan Jr.'s Exotic Oriental Murder Mystery* playing May 12 - 28, 2017. *The New York Times* called the play a "metatheatrical polemic about the way Asian-Americans have been characterized and caricatured in popular culture." Next year marks Mu's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, and the Guthrie is thrilled to welcome them back to the Studio with this production.

From July 6 - 16, 2017, the Guthrie will host **The New Griots Festival** whose mission is to highlight, celebrate and advance the careers of emerging Black artists in the Twin Cities. Including the work of ten local emerging artists, free community classes and open working sessions, the festival will be led by director/playwright Jamil Jude, actress Jamaica Meyer and playwright Josh Wilder. Programming will be chosen through a proposal process by these three lead producers, and participating artists will receive two performance slots over the two weekends.

Single tickets for productions in the Dowling Studio are \$9 and go on sale July 20, 2016. Season passes for the Dowling Studio are available to 2016-2017 season ticket holders beginning May 3. Dowling Studio season passes are available to new patrons beginning May 19. For more information or to purchase tickets or season subscriptions, call the Guthrie Theater Box Office 612.377.2224 or toll-free 877.44.STAGE, 612.225.6244 (Group Sales) and online at [guthrietheater.org](http://guthrietheater.org).

**THE GUTHRIE THEATER** (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) was founded by Sir Tyrone Guthrie in 1963 and is an American center for theater performance, production, education and professional training, dedicated to producing the great works of dramatic literature and to cultivating the next generation of theater artists.

Under Haj's leadership, the Guthrie produces a mix of classic and contemporary plays on three stages, and continues to set a national standard for excellence in theatrical production and performance. In 2006, the Guthrie opened its new home on the banks of the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. Designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Jean Nouvel, the Guthrie Theater houses three state-of-the-art stages, production facilities, classrooms, full-service restaurants and dramatic public lobbies. [guthrietheater.org](http://guthrietheater.org)

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