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**THE GUTHRIE THEATER PRESENTS *ANTHEMS FOR COMMUNITY*,
A “HAPPENING” FEATURING SONGS AND READINGS TO CELEBRATE
THE DIVERSITY OF OUR COMMUNITY**

Friday, August 25 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Level One of the Guthrie Theater

Free and open to the public

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*)—The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) today announced that it will present *Anthems for Community*, the final “Happening” of the 2016-2017 Season, comprised of songs, readings and anthems performed by Guthrie artists and staff on Friday, August 25 from 5:30–6:30 p.m. in the theater’s first-floor lobby.

Anthems for Community will create a space to celebrate and support the diversity of voices, histories and experiences in the Guthrie community. The event will open with remarks from Guthrie leadership, feature 10 brief performances by Guthrie artists and staff (curated by the theater’s artistic department) and close with cookies and lemonade on the lawn.

Artistic Director Joseph Haj said, “We began the 2016-2017 Season with *The Parchman Hour*, a play that celebrates the important role song and community gathering have played in our nation’s civil rights movement. Song and poetry have frequently provided the rhythm and the heart of social change-making in our country, and we know that this process of creating change is not over, made painfully clear by recent events in Charlottesville. As an organization committed to equity, diversity and inclusion, we want to draw upon this historical practice of song in order to lift up and celebrate the beautiful complexity of our community and nation today.”

“Happenings” are periodic and timely events that may include conversations, town hall meetings, salons, dance parties, performances and readings that are responsive to current events and are immediately relevant to the world around us. These “happening” events are part of the Guthrie’s Level Nine Series, conceptualized by Haj and supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, emphasizing the creation of a theater that wrestles with urgent questions and inspires dynamic dialogue with its audience, expands the diversity of voices, visions and styles on its stages, and engages community members currently underserved by its work.

Previous “Happenings” include *Water Is Sacred*, a performance curated by award-winning Indigenous artists Ty Defoe and Larissa FastHorse, which combined ceremony, music, text, dance and discussion to

honor and celebrate water and to recognize the ways it has been threatened on Indigenous lands; *The Trump Card*, acclaimed monologist Mike Daisey's exploration of the theatrics of Donald J. Trump and how he rose to his standing in the 2016 Presidential race; and *Acting Black*, a powerful solo project by Carlyle Brown which explored the appropriation of the African American narrative.

Anthems for Community is made possible through generous support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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.

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