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**GUTHRIE THEATER TO HOST 19TH ANNUAL SHAKESPEARE CLASSIC
WITH PERFORMANCE OF SHAKESPEARE'S *ROMEO AND JULIET*,
HELMED BY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JOSEPH HAJ**

All tickets are \$10 for this special matinee on Sunday, October 8 at 1 p.m.

Since 1999, the Shakespeare Classic has introduced young people to the powerful stories and poetry of William Shakespeare.

(Minneapolis/St. Paul)—The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) is proud to host the 19th Annual Shakespeare Classic on Sunday, October 8 at 1 p.m., providing young people ages 10 to 17 and their families an opportunity to experience *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare's timeless classic of star-crossed lovers. Established in 1999, this annual event is tailored specifically for young audiences and offers \$10 tickets to all patrons, a specially-prepared play program and a meet and greet opportunity with actors in the lobby after the performance. Tickets are now on sale through the Guthrie Box Office at 612.377.2224, or toll-free at 877.44.STAGE.

It's a story so well-known it scarcely needs an introduction, yet surprisingly the Guthrie has produced it just twice before. Set in Verona where the rival houses of Capulet and Montague have had a long-standing feud, *Romeo and Juliet* is Shakespeare's famous tragedy of star-crossed lovers, filled with all the passion of young love. Underscored by ingenious wit and astonishing beauty, the play pits the bitterness of resentment against the intensity of romance.

Tickets to the popular annual event are just \$10, and every order must have at least one but no more than two adults for every young person. Tickets for the Shakespeare Classic are available through the Guthrie Box Office at 612.377.2224 or toll-free at 877.44.STAGE. This performance is not available for purchase online.

The Shakespeare Classic is made possible by generous contributions to the Sheila and Kenneth Livingston Fund. The Guthrie Theater's production of *Romeo and Juliet* is part of Shakespeare in American Communities, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

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 is guided by four core values: Artistic Excellence; Community; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; and Fiscal Responsibility. 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, serving nearly 400,000 patrons annually. In 2006, the Guthrie opened a new home, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Jean Nouvel, located on the banks of the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Open to the public year-round, it houses three state-of-the-art stages, production facilities, classrooms, full-service restaurants and dramatic public lobbies. guthrietheater.org

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