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**GUTHRIE THEATER ANNOUNCES LOCAL PRESENTATIONS
OF THE 2018–2019 DOWLING STUDIO SEASON**

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*) – The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, artistic director) announced the four local presentations slated for the 2018–2019 Dowling Studio Season, which includes the return of two companies who have previously produced in the Dowling Studio, Interact Theater and Full Circle Theater, as well as a company and individual artist who are producing at the Guthrie for the first time – PRIME Productions and Patrick Scully.

As part of the theater’s Level Nine Series, all tickets for productions in the Dowling Studio are general admission and \$9. Tickets for the local Dowling Studio productions go on sale July 2. Call the Box Office at 612.377.2224 or 877.44.STAGE (toll-free) or visit guthrietheater.org.

“I’m thrilled to announce the local partners for our third season of the Level Nine Series. This initiative not only promises \$9 tickets to every performance in the Dowling Studio, but also provides opportunities for audiences to engage with the work through meaningful community dialogues. The Level Nine Series allows us to challenge our expectations of theater as an art form and expand and deepen our connections within the community,” said Artistic Director Joseph Haj. “Next season, we’re honored to welcome returning artists back to the Studio and forge partnerships with exciting new collaborators. We look forward to sharing their innovative work with the Twin Cities.”

The Guthrie kicks off the Dowling Studio season by presenting PRIME Productions’ *Two Degrees* by Tira Palmquist, directed by Shelli Place, playing October 5–21, 2018. When a scientist comes to Washington, D.C. – arguably the most hostile place for scientists these days – she discovers the stakes are higher than ever. For Emma Phelps, a paleoclimatologist coming to challenge some troubling shifts in policy, she finds herself at the intersection of the personal and the political, of sex and power, of what’s done for the public good and what’s done to make a buck. Phelps has to answer difficult questions before she can win this fight, and she must discover how to unthaw from her own personal anguish before she can save the planet and herself. PRIME Productions, co-founded by Alison Edwards, Elena Giannetti and Shelli Place, seeks to explore, illuminate and support women over 50 and their stories through the creative voice of performance.

November 3–18, 2018, the Guthrie welcomes Interact Theater’s production of *Hot Funky Butt Jazz!* – a musical journey into turn-of-the-century New Orleans. This original musical tells the story of the creative and resilient personalities who defied racism and birthed a sound so unique, it defined an age and changed our music and culture forever. Featuring New Orleans’ musicians Zena Moses, Jeremy Phipps and Eugene Harding, *Hot Funky Butt Jazz!* is directed by Jeanne Calvit with original lyrics and music by

Aaron Gabriel. Interact Theater is dedicated to commissioning, developing and producing new and contemporary plays that explore the social, political and cultural issues of our time.

Next, the Guthrie presents a Full Circle Theater production of the Obie Award-winning play ***Caught*** by Christopher Chen and directed by Rick Shiomi. In this irreverent, new, genre-bending piece playing May 17 – June 2, 2019, Chen applies his playful imagination to the work of a Chinese dissident artist. This hybrid work invites us to navigate a labyrinthine trail between truth and perception, authority and authenticity, illusionary art and real jeopardy.

Established in 2015, Full Circle Theater is led by Co-Artistic Directors Rick Shiomi and Martha B. Johnson with Core Artistic Group Members James A. Williams, Lara Trujillo and Stephanie Lein Walseth. It is dedicated to producing heartfelt, groundbreaking theater that artfully addresses issues of human nature and social justice. Their production of *Under This Roof* played at the Guthrie last month as part of the 2017–2018 Dowling Studio Season.

Finally, the Guthrie welcomes ***Leaves of Grass – Illuminated***, written and performed by Patrick Scully from the text by Walt Whitman. Playing July 12–14, 2019, this unique event summons the spirit of Walt Whitman, revealing his many sides. From the furtive – changing genders to “straighten things up” – to the fierce – defying the censors while getting banned in Boston – this is the Whitman that none of us learned about in American literature class.

Scully is a Minneapolis-based choreographer, dancer and performance artist. In 1976, he co-founded Contactworks, a dance collective focused on contact improvisation. In addition to his performing work, Scully was the founder and longtime director of Patrick’s Cabaret in Minneapolis.

The Dowling Studio Season is part of the Guthrie’s Level Nine Series, an initiative devoted to the creation of 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. As part of the series, all general admission tickets to productions in the Dowling Studio are \$9, and every performance includes an audience engagement component.

Programming in the Dowling Studio is supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The Guthrie Theater’s 2018–2019 Season sponsors include Bell Bank, The Shubert Foundation and Target.

As in recent years, the Guthrie will also present artists and companies from outside the Twin Cities metro area. An announcement of those artists and companies will be made at a later date.

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 cultivating the next generation of theater artists. Under Haj’s leadership, the Guthrie is guided by four core values: Artistic Excellence; Community; Equity, Diversity 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

TICKET INFORMATION

Single tickets are available beginning July 2 through the Guthrie Box Office at 612.377.2224, 877.44.STAGE (toll-free) and online at guthrietheater.org.

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Two Degrees

by Tira Palmquist
directed by Shelli Place
October 5–21, 2018

The Guthrie Theater presents
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Hot Funky Butt Jazz!

created by the Interact Ensemble
directed by Jeanne Calvit
music and lyrics by Aaron Gabriel
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