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GUTHRIE TO PRESENT FRANK BOYD'S *THE HOLLER SESSIONS*

Boyd's one-man show is an unhinged, irreverent and passionate love letter to jazz.

**Previews begin on Friday, August 4; Opening Tuesday, August 8;
Playing through Sunday, August 20, 2017 in the Dowling Studio**

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*)—The final production in the Guthrie's 2016-2017 Dowling Studio season will be *The Holler Sessions*, written and performed by Frank Boyd, created in collaboration with the TEAM with consulting directors Rachel Chavkin (Guthrie: *The Royal Family*) and Josh Aaseng. Performances run August 4-20 in the Dowling Studio. Access services including audio description (AD), American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation, and Open Captioning (OC) will be available for the August 17 performance. Tickets are \$9 and are now on sale through the Box Office at 612.377.2224, toll-free 877.44.STAGE, and online at guthrietheater.org.

In celebration of *The Holler Sessions*, a play about listening to music together, the Guthrie invites its patrons and community members to participate in public listening parties on August 12 and 19 from 6:30-7:15 p.m. in the Target Lounge. Dust off your vinyl to play on a turntable provided by the Guthrie, swap stories about your music obsessions, and enjoy a signature *Holler Sessions* cocktail from the cash bar.

Staged as a live radio show, *The Holler Sessions* centers on one man's burning obsession with American jazz. Ray, an explosive Kansas City DJ, broadcasts his love of jazz from his shoddy studio with an infectious passion for this uniquely American art form. His maniacal rants, razor-sharp insights and mildly scatological humor are interspersed with extraordinary music and lots of space for listening. *The Holler Sessions* serves as a jazz primer for the uninitiated, a powerful reminder for jazz fans and an irreverent love letter to the best thing America has ever created, and then forgotten.

When it premiered in New York, *The Holler Sessions* was named a *New York Times* Critics' Pick. Seattle's *City Arts* wrote, "Frank Boyd's one-man theater piece is a vital exhortation on the significance of jazz ... it should be required viewing for all musicians, music lovers, pop-culture fiends, artists, art fans and American people over the age of seven." *Culturebot* wrote, "Boyd is the sort of supremely talented performer whose craft is so refined it's nearly invisible."

The Holler Sessions was created in collaboration with the TEAM, a Brooklyn-based theater ensemble dedicated to creating new work about the experience of living in America today. Since 2004 they have created 10 original and award-winning pieces of theater which have been seen at venues across the

globe. The creative team for *The Holler Sessions* includes: Rachel Chavkin (Consulting Director), Josh Aaseng (Consulting Director), Eric Southern (Scenic and Lighting Design), Matt Hubbs (Sound Design), Michaela K. McCoy (Stage Manager) and Dani Prados (Production Manager).

FRANK BOYD (Playwright and Performer) is a Seattle-based writer and actor. *The Holler Sessions* premiered in Seattle at On the Boards in 2015 and in New York in 2016 as a part of PS122's COIL Festival (*New York Times* Critics' Pick). Boyd is also a member of the NYC ensembles Elevator Repair Service and the TEAM with whom he has performed in *Gatz* (The Public Theater), *The Select* (New York Theater Workshop), *Architecting* (The Public Theater, PS122) and *Particularly In the Heartland* (PS122). In 2015-16 Boyd performed on tour with Young Jean Lee's Theater Company in *Straight White Men*. Other theater credits include: *A View from the Bridge* (Seattle Repertory Theater) and the world premieres of *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* (Seattle Times Footlight Award) at Book-It Repertory Theatre, and *Red Speedo* at the Studio Theatre in D.C. TV and film credits include: "Z Nation," "Guiding Light," *Almost Family* and *B.U.S.T.* He is currently creating a new show with Libby King called *Patti & The Kid*, a post-apocalyptic western with Nerf guns that will premiere at On the Boards in Seattle in April 2018.

The Holler Sessions is part of the Guthrie's Level 9 Series, an initiative devoted to 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. As part of the series, all tickets to productions in the Dowling Studio are \$9, every performance includes a community engagement component, and periodic community gatherings called Happenings are programmed in response to local and national current events, creating a space where history in the making is tracked.

Programming in the Dowling Studio is supported by the Blythe Brenden-Mann Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The Holler Sessions premiered at On the Boards in 2015. Development of *The Holler Sessions* has been supported by On the Boards, the TEAM, Seattle Repertory Theater and the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture. Early material for *The Holler Sessions* was developed as part of a work created by the TEAM and Sojourn Theater. Additional touring support was received from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts.

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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