



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE GUTHRIE THEATER PRESENTS THE MIDWEST PREMIERE OF
MALA BY MELINDA LOPEZ
AN ArtsEmerson PRODUCTION**

[*Mala* photos available here](#)

“Piercingly honest, exquisitely moving. An unflinching look at loss.”

The Boston Globe

“An exquisitely fashioned theater piece brimming with humor, frustration and honesty...”

WBUR (Boston)

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*)—The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) kicks off the 2017-2018 Dowling Studio Season with the Midwest premiere of the ArtsEmerson production of *Mala*, a moving one-woman show written and performed by notable Boston playwright and actress **Melinda Lopez**. Directed by ArtsEmerson’s Co-Artistic Director **David Dower**, *Mala* will play September 22 – October 8 in the Dowling Studio. As part of the Level 9 Series to ensure greater access for audiences, all tickets for *Mala* are \$9 and are on sale now through the Guthrie Box Office at 612.377.2224, toll-free 877.44.STAGE and online at guthrietheater.org.

Funny, brutally honest and ultimately cathartic, *Mala* puts a sharp focus on what it means to put our loved ones first, right to the very end, and what happens when we strive to be good but don’t always succeed. This powerful 80-minute show with no intermission reveals an utterly unsentimental narrative on how we live, cope and survive in the moment. Grounded in humor, *Mala* dances between doctors and 911 calls, a mother’s growing frailty and a daughter’s quest for grace.

Lopez is a Cuban-American playwright and actress, and the inaugural playwright-in-residence at Boston’s Huntington Theatre Company. Her plays—which include *Sonia Flew*, *Becoming Cuba*, *Caroline in Jersey* and *Orchids to Octopi*—have been produced at the Huntington Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Laguna Playhouse, Central Square Theater and many more. This marks Lopez’s return to the Guthrie where she first appeared as Oya in *Many Colors Make the Thunder King* in the 1996-1997 Season.

Mala made its world premiere in Boston at the Emerson Paramount Center in October 2016. *The Boston Globe* called *Mala* “a richly layered work...piercingly honest, exquisitely moving,” and named the play “Best of 2016.” WBUR said it’s “an exquisitely fashioned theater piece, brimming with humor, frustration

and honesty as biting as the wind, snow and Arctic fantasy that blow through it.” *Mala* won the Elliot Norton Award for Best New Play from the Boston Theatre Critics Association.

ArtsEmerson is Boston’s leading presenter of contemporary world theatre and is dedicated to engaging *all* communities through stories that reveal and deepen our connection to each other. Founded by Robert J. Orchard in 2010 as the professional presenting and producing organization of the Office of the Arts at Emerson College, ArtsEmerson is now led by a triad Leadership of equal authority, Co-Artistic Directors David Dower and P. Carl, and Executive Director David C. Howse. This shared leadership model reflects the organization’s values — that diverse perspectives are essential to leading a 21st century arts organization.

The creative team for *Mala* includes **Kristine Holmes** (Scenic Designer), **Scott Pinkney** (Lighting Designer), **Arshan Gailus** (Sound Designer), **Ari Herzig** (Projection Designer) and **Deb Acquavella** (Stage Manager).

Programming in the Dowling Studio is supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The Guthrie received a \$1 million grant from the foundation to underwrite a groundbreaking initiative for the theater’s entire ninth floor, home to the 200-seat Dowling Studio, the Citizens of Minnesota Overlook – a signature feature of the lobby known as the “amber box” – and a unique retractable wall that unifies the performance space with its lobby. The Level 9 initiative, conceptualized by Artistic Director Joseph Haj, emphasizes 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. All performances that are a part of the Level 9 Series are \$9, general admission.

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

FACT SHEET

Mala

Written and performed by Melinda Lopez
directed by David Dower
dramaturgy by P. Carl

About the show: Funny, brutally honest and ultimately cathartic, *Mala* puts a sharp focus on what it means to put our loved ones first, right to the very end, and what happens when we strive to be good but don't always succeed. This powerful one-woman show reveals an utterly un sentimental narrative on how we live, cope and survive in the moment. Grounded in humor, *Mala* dances between doctors and 911 calls, a mother's growing frailty and a daughter's quest for grace.

Cast: **Melinda Lopez** as Mala

Creative team: **Kristine Holmes** (Scenic Designer), **Scott Pinkney** (Lighting Designer), **Arshan Gailus** (Sound Designer), **Ari Herzig** (Projection Designer) and **Deb Acquavella** (Stage Manager)

Performance Dates: September 22 – October 8, 2017 in the Dowling Studio

Preview: Friday, September 22 at 7:30 p.m.
Opening Night: Saturday, September 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Performance Times: Tuesdays – Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Sundays at 7 p.m. Visit guthrietheater.org for the complete performance schedule.

Location: Guthrie Theater – Dowling Studio on Level Nine
818 South 2nd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55415

Pricing: \$9 / general admission

Tickets: Tickets may be purchased online at guthrietheater.org
Guthrie Box Office: 612.377.2224 or 877.44.STAGE
Box Office hours: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. (11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on non-performance days)

ACCESS DATES

ASL Performance

October 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Audio Described Performance

October 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Open Captioned Performance

October 5 at 7:30 p.m.

If you have specific program questions or need an accommodation, please contact the Accessibility Office by phone at 612.225.6390 (voice) or 612.225.6391 (TTY) or email at accessibility@guthrietheater.org.

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