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**THE GUTHRIE THEATER PRESENTS
*AFTERMATH: A NEWTOWN SCREENING AND COMMUNITY CONVERSATION***

Monday, October 16 at 7 p.m. in the Dowling Studio

This free event is the first “Happening” of the Guthrie’s 2017-2018 Season

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*)—The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) today announced that it will present *Aftermath: A Newtown Screening and Community Conversation*, the first “Happening” of the 2017-2018 Season, on Monday, October 16 at 7 p.m. in the Dowling Studio. Tickets are free but reservations are required through the Guthrie Box Office at 612.377.2224, toll-free 877.44.STAGE, or online at guthrietheater.org. Due to limited capacity, there is a two ticket limit per person.

Aftermath: A Newtown Screening and Community Conversation offers an opportunity for reflection and conversation about the impact of gun violence on public health. The event features a screening of the documentary *Newtown* followed by a panel discussion with the film’s director, Kim Snyder, as well as public health experts, school staff and clergy from the Twin Cities community.

Artistic Director Joseph Haj said, “At the Guthrie we believe that the arts build empathy and social awareness, especially when that art is placed in conversation with larger community concerns and expert knowledge. Given the recent events in Las Vegas, we want to create a moment to thoughtfully reflect upon how such acts of violence may speak to a systemic public health crisis.”

Haj added, “Through the story of Sandy Hook Elementary, *Newtown* eloquently and deftly leads its audience to a space of empathy and understanding. By hosting a discussion following the screening, we hope to offer an opportunity to place the lessons of the film in conversation with the impact of gun violence in the Twin Cities.”

Filmed over the course of nearly three years, *Newtown* documents the repercussions of the tragedy on the community surrounding Sandy Hook Elementary, site of the deadliest mass elementary school shooting in American history. A selection of Full Frame Documentary Festival, SXSW Film Festival and Sundance Film Festival, *Newtown* focuses “on the aftermath — not merely the initial reaction, but the lingering effects on families, teachers, emergency medical workers. This film isn’t content to be merely a never forget reminder; it wants to convey just how deep and lasting the pain is, from this attack and, by extension, many others” (*The New York Times*). More information about *Newtown* can be found at www.newtownfilm.com.

“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 *Anthems for Community*, a celebration supporting the diversity of voices, histories and experiences in the Guthrie community; *Water Is Sacred*, a performance curated by award-winning Indigenous artists Ty Defoe and Larissa FastHorse, combining 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 that explored the appropriation of the African American narrative.

Aftermath: A Newtown Screening and Community Conversation 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 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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