



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 29, 2018

Press release #1730

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**GUTHRIE THEATER TO PRESENT THE FIRST POST-BROADWAY PRODUCTION OF *INDECENT*,  
THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED NEW PLAY WITH MUSIC  
BY PULITZER PRIZE-WINNER PAULA VOGEL  
DIRECTED BY WENDY C. GOLDBERG**

**Previews begin Saturday, February 17; Opening on Friday, February 23;  
Playing through Saturday, March 24, 2018  
on the Wurtele Thrust Stage at the Guthrie Theater**

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*)—The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) today announced casting for its production of *Indecent*, a new play with music by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel (*How I Learned to Drive*). Wendy C. Goldberg, an award-winning theater director in her 14th season as artistic director of the National Playwrights Conference at The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, has been slated to direct.

Having had a successful run on Broadway in the spring and summer of 2017, this new and reimagined production of *Indecent* will play February 17 - March 24, 2018 on the Wurtele Thrust Stage. Single tickets start at \$29 (\$15 for previews), and are on sale now through the Guthrie Box Office at 612.377.2224, toll-free 877.44.STAGE, 612.225.6244 (Group Sales) and online at [guthrietheater.org](http://guthrietheater.org).

Inspired by the 1923 Broadway debut of Sholem Asch's *The God of Vengeance* – a play that follows a Jewish brothel owner and the lesbian romance between his daughter and a prostitute – *Indecent* charts the journey of a drama upheld as a groundbreaking piece of Jewish literature by some, and an act of obscenity by others. An ensemble of seven actors and three musicians portrays more than 40 roles to shed light on one of the most fascinating scandals in theater history.

At the play's first rehearsal, Goldberg told the company and staff, "Paula is quite simply the most generous person I have ever met. To be creating this new production with her here at the Guthrie on a thrust stage is a thrill." In a recent Playbill.com article, Goldberg commented, "This deeply timely play speaks to the power of art in troubling time[s] and is filled with passion, vitality and theatricality."

"At its core, this play is a love letter to the theater," Vogel said upon her arrival at the Guthrie this week. "*Indecent* is about legacy; recognizing that many of our ancestors are immigrants and that we are, in significant ways, an immigrant nation. And it contains one of the most beautiful love scenes [from *The God of Vengeance*] that I have ever seen."

The cast features **Spencer Chandler** (Guthrie: debut) as Moriz Godowsky, Accordion; **Ben Cherry** (Guthrie: debut) as Lemml/As Cast; **Gisela Chípe** (Guthrie: debut) as Halina/As Cast; **Robert Dorfman** (Guthrie: *Sense and Sensibility*, *The Critic / The Real Inspector Hound*, *Uncle Vanya*) as Otto/As Cast; **Steven Epp** (Guthrie: *Refugia*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *The Caretaker*) as Mendel/As Cast; **Lisa Gutkin** (Guthrie: debut) as Nelly Friedman, Violin; **Hugh Kennedy** (Guthrie: *Watch on the Rhine*; *Othello*, *the Moor of Venice*; *Tribes*) as Avram/As Cast; **Pat W. O'Keefe** (Guthrie: *Oedipus*) as Mayer Balsam, Clarinet; **Miriam Schwartz** (Guthrie: *Born Yesterday*) as Chana/As Cast and **Sally Wingert** (Guthrie: *Blithe Spirit*, *Native Gardens*, *Sense and Sensibility*) as Vera/As Cast.

The creative team for *Indecent* includes **Paula Vogel** (Playwright), **Wendy C. Goldberg** (Director), **Lisa Gutkin** (Music Director), **Yehuda Hyman** (Choreographer), **Arnulfo Maldonado** (Scenic Designer), **Anne Kennedy** (Costume Designer), **Josh Epstein** (Lighting Designer), **Kate Marvin** (Sound Designer), **Alex Basco Koch** (Projection Designer), **Jo Holcomb** (Dramaturg), **Jill Walmsley Zager** (Vocal Coach), **Jason Clusman** (Stage Manager), **Michele Hossle** (Assistant Stage Manager), **Martin Damien Wilkins** (Assistant Director) and **Adin Walker** (assistant choreographer).

Post-play discussions and access services (ASL, Audio Described and Open Captioned performances) are available on select dates. Visit [guthrietheater.org](http://guthrietheater.org) for more information.

### **About Paula Vogel**

Paula Vogel's most recent project *Indecent*, was commissioned by Oregon Shakespeare Festival's American Revolutions and Yale Repertory Theatre. *Indecent* was developed at the Sundance Theatre Lab in 2013, and was produced at Yale Repertory Theatre and La Jolla Playhouse in fall 2015. It was produced at the Vineyard Theatre in May 2016 and ran on Broadway at the Cort Theatre from April 4 – August 6, 2017. Her play *How I Learned to Drive* received the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the Lortel Prize, Drama Desk, Outer Critics and New York Drama Critics Award for Best Play, as well as her second Obie. Most recently it was produced in Mandarin in Beijing. Other plays include *The Long Christmas Ride Home*, *The Mineola Twins*, *The Baltimore Waltz*, *Hot'n'thrbbing*, *Desdemona*, *And Baby Makes Seven*, *The Oldest Profession* and *A Civil War Christmas*.

### **About Wendy C. Goldberg**

Wendy C. Goldberg is an award-winning theater director and is in her 14th season as artistic director of the National Playwrights Conference at The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. She also leads the National Directors Fellowship, now in its third year. During Goldberg's tenure, the O'Neill was awarded the 2010 Regional Tony Award, the first play development and education organization to receive this honor. In addition, Goldberg has overseen the development of more than 100 projects for the stage, many of which have gone on to great acclaim with productions in New York, London and around the country. Goldberg's previous Guthrie credits include directing *Dollhouse* (2009-2010 Season) and *Tribes* (2013-2014 Season).

**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](http://guthrietheater.org)

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