



Press release #1731  
February 5, 2018

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## **GUTHRIE THEATER TO PRESENT SOLO EMERGING ARTISTS CELEBRATION, FEATURING THREE NEW WORKS IN REPERTORY IN THE DOWLING STUDIO**

**Antonio Duke's *Tears of Moons*  
A.P. Looze's *Foray Softly*  
Ifrah Mansour's *How to Have Fun in a Civil War***

**February 24 – March 11 | Dowling Studio  
All tickets are \$9**

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*)—The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) is proud to present its first Solo Emerging Artist Celebration, featuring the works of three Minneapolis-based artists – Antonio Duke, A.P. Looze and Ifrah Mansour – playing in repertory February 24 – March 11 in the Dowling Studio. As part of the Level Nine Series to ensure greater access for audiences, individual performance tickets are \$9, general admission, and are on sale now through the Guthrie Box Office at 612.377.2224 or by visiting [guthrietheater.org](http://guthrietheater.org).

Artistic Director Joseph Haj said, “Each of these artists possesses a distinctive point of view of the world. Through Antonio’s examination of race, A.P.’s theorization of trans identity through nature and memory, and Ifrah’s exploration of the refugee experience, we’re invited as audience members to deepen our understanding of ourselves and the communities around us. We are thrilled to play a small part in nurturing their artistic processes and to showcase these new pieces as part of the Level Nine Series, where Guthrie audiences have come to expect theater that is brave, immediate and community-driven.”

### **Antonio Duke – *Tears of Moons***

Through poetry and prose, inspired by *An Iliad*, Duke embodies victims of racial violence from 1955–2015, chronicling hate crimes against African Americans and exploring mankind’s addiction to violence. Duke is a multidisciplinary artist whose work centers on race, police violence and historical memory while aiming to reconnect African heritage to African American youth. *Most enjoyed by ages 14+*.

Saturday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 1 at 10 a.m.

Sunday, March 4 at 1 p.m.

Wednesday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m.

### **A.P. Looze – *Foray Softly***

Sometimes you find what you’re looking for, sometimes you don’t, and sometimes you find something else entirely. Follow Looze on an exploration of foraging, and take a journey to places where the most

tender version of self may arise. Using a tragic-comic lens, their work explores a constellation of themes including transgender identity, grief, spirituality and family. *Most enjoyed by ages 18+*.

Sunday, February 25 at 1 p.m.  
Thursday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, March 4 at 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m.

**Ifrah Mansour – *How to Have Fun in a Civil War***

In a captivating refugee story of resilience, Mansour revisits her childhood memories of the 1991 Somali Civil War. Layering puppetry, poetry, video and interviews, she confronts violent history with humor. Mansour interweaves text, movement and digital media to create multi-sensory artwork that illuminates the invisible stories of immigrants. *Most enjoyed by ages 6+*.

Sunday, February 25 at 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, February 28 at 10 a.m.  
Saturday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, March 8 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, March 11 at 1 p.m.

**Antonio Duke** is an actor and playwright who strives to create stories that embody the black diaspora as authentically as possible. In his writing he focuses on mythology, which possesses an intimacy and epic quality he's driven to explore. Duke is passionate about making ancient stories anew with modern circumstances. A recent graduate of the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater B.F.A. Actor Training Program, Duke has worked onstage with Penumbra Theatre; Teatro Del Pueblo; Pillsbury House Theatre; Climb Theatre; Pangea World Theatre; Open Eye Figure Theatre; Mission Theatre Company; Day In, Day Out Productions; and Nebraska Shakespeare Festival.

**A.P. Looze** is an artist who seeks the truth, and goes on heartfelt and honest adventures to find it. They make work that touches on concepts of spirituality and healing by way of personal narrative, investigation and inquiry of past experience, and whatever is at their fingertips or on their mind. Their work has been performed as part of 20% Theatre Company's Naked I and Q-Stage, at Queertopia, Patrick's Cabaret, Bryant Lake Bowl and Madame.

**Ifrah Mansour** is a Somali multimedia artist, performer and educator who uses art to bridge cultures and generations. "My artwork is informed by my lived experience, and that of my community as Muslim refugees and Somali immigrants." Mansour's artwork takes the form of plays, poetry, installations, puppetry and community collaborations. Her work has been seen at the Minnesota State Fair and Northern Spark Festival, as well as by primarily East African immigrant youth and elders through educational performances. Recent art and performance works include *My Aqal*, *Somalia's Balloon*, *Lablaab the Spill*, *Isug*, *Corn for Ayayo*, and the films *Stray* and *Can I Touch It* currently on display as part of the "I am Somali" exhibition at Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

Programming in the Dowling Studio is supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. In 2016, the Guthrie received a \$1 million grant from the foundation to underwrite a groundbreaking initiative for the theater's entire ninth floor. Conceptualized by Artistic Director Joseph Haj, the Level Nine initiative 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 tickets to performances that are a part of the Level Nine 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 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](http://guthrietheater.org)

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