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**ACCLAIMED MONOLOGIST MIKE DAISEY BRINGS HIS SIGNATURE PROVOCATIVE HUMOR TO
THE DEBUT OF HIS NEWEST WORK, *A PEOPLE'S HISTORY*
EXPLORING A DIFFERENT CHAPTER OF AMERICAN HISTORY EVERY NIGHT
IN THE GUTHRIE THEATER'S DOWLING STUDIO**

**Opening on Wednesday, March 14;
Playing through Saturday, March 31, 2018**

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*)—The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) today announced that it will debut renowned monologist Mike Daisey's *A People's History*, created and performed by Daisey, from March 14–31 in the Dowling Studio. One of the finest solo performers of his generation, Daisey uses his famous razor sharp wit to expose the historical myths we have all helped to create. General admission tickets are \$9 and may be reserved through the Guthrie Box Office at 612.377.2224, toll-free 877.44.STAGE, and online at guthrietheater.org.

Mike Daisey finds a U.S. History textbook from his high school in rural Maine. What follows is the kind of history lesson only he could teach, contrasting the history he learned growing up and Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States*. In this 18-part performance (one part nightly), Daisey tells a history of America—from the first landing of Columbus to the election of Donald Trump. With his signature dark humor, he illuminates how facts meet myth in the stories we tell.

When asked about debuting his new work at the Guthrie Theater, Daisey recently told *Mpls.St. Paul Magazine*, "I think there's a secret, geeky, nerdy subcategory of people who really like secret histories, and there might be more in Minneapolis. One of the things about the Guthrie [Theater] and the Guthrie audience is that I feel like they are extremely game. They are game to have something unexpected happen, and that's rarer than you think it would be in American theater."

"Mike Daisey is one of the most electrifying voices in theater today," said Artistic Director Joseph Haj. "*The Trump Card* was the most relevant performance we could have programmed to start off last fall's Happenings on Level Nine. I'm thrilled to welcome Mike back to the Guthrie to debut the provocative and engaging *A People's History*."

Critical acclaim for Mike Daisey and his performances:

- "The master storyteller—one of the finest solo performers of his generation" (*The New York Times*)
- "A charismatic performer" with "...insightful hostility of the best comedy" (*The New Yorker*)
- "Pure magic" (*New York Magazine*)
- "Enthralling and supremely theatrical" (*Chicago Sun Times*)
- "A brilliant storyteller...hysterically funny." (TheaterMania.com)

MIKE DAISEY (Creator and Performer) is the preeminent monologist in American theater today. He has been compared to a modern-day Mark Twain and a latter-day Orson Welles for his provocative monologues that combine the political and the personal, weaving together secret histories with hilarity and heart. He's known for art that reinvents the form, like his critically acclaimed 29-night live theatrical novel, *All the Faces of the Moon*, a forty-hour performance staged at The Public Theater in New York City. He is currently at work on his second book, *Here at the End of Empire*, which will be published by Simon and Schuster.

He has toured across five continents, ranging from remote islands in the South Pacific to the Sydney Opera House to abandoned theaters in post-Communist Tajikistan. He's been a guest on "Real Time with Bill Maher," the "Late Show with David Letterman," a longtime host and storyteller with *The Moth*, as well as a commentator and contributor to *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Newsweek*, *WIRED*, *Vanity Fair*, *Slate*, *Salon*, *NPR* and the *BBC*. In a brief, meteoric career with *This American Life*, his appearances are among the most listened to and downloaded episodes of that program's history. He has been nominated for the Outer Critics Circle Award, two Drama League Awards, and is the recipient of the Bay Area Critics Circle Award, six Seattle Times Footlight Awards, the Sloan Foundation's Galileo Prize, and a MacDowell Fellowship.

As a playwright, his transcript of *The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs* was downloaded over 100,000 times in the first week it was made available. Under a revolutionary open license, it has been translated into six languages and produce more than 150 times around the world. Years later there are productions being staged all over the world.

Performances of *A People's History* at the Guthrie are made possible through generous support from 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 Series 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.

Post-play discussions and access services (ASL, Audio Described and Open Captioned performances) are available on select dates. Visit guthrietheater.org or call the Box Office at 612.377.2224 for more information.

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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