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THE GUTHRIE THEATER HONORS THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PRINCE
A Purple Celebration: A free community “Happening” on Monday, April 16 from 8-11 p.m.

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*)—The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) today announced that the Guthrie Theater will open its doors for ***A Purple Celebration***, a free community “Happening” honoring the lasting influence of musical legend Prince on Monday, April 16 from 8-11 p.m. in the Level One and Level Four lobbies of the Guthrie Theater. This is a free, non-ticketed event as part of a week-long commemoration of Prince in Minneapolis and St. Paul. More information is available online at guthrietheater.org.

As the Twin Cities community marks the second anniversary of Prince’s passing, the artists and staff of the Guthrie Theater, whose own work has been deeply influenced and inspired by Prince’s artistry, will join city-wide community celebrations of Prince’s legacy. The Guthrie’s ***A Purple Celebration*** will feature music, poetry and artistic creations by local artists and community guests as we gather together to remember legendary artist, Prince.

This interactive evening opens with Guthrie Theater artists and staff offering music and poetry inspired by Prince followed by JD Steele, Fred Steele and the Mill City Choir paying their own unique musical homage to the Purple One. The second half of the evening will move into a dance party led by DJ Jake Rudh of MPR’s The Current as he spins Prince tunes and rhythmic grooves.

There will be opportunities throughout the evening for personal engagement and expression. Following the stylings of Paisley Park, a black vinyl-coated chain-link fence will be the site of a Prince shrine where guests can share artwork and memorabilia. A crafting station will be available as a place for community members to create their own expressions of honor and appreciation for the global impact of one of Minnesota’s beloved native sons. Live drawings by local artisans will be created during the evening, and stylists from Curl Power Salon in Minneapolis will be available at the Fabulous Purple Hair Booth to transform hairstyles through the magic of purple spray and glitter. Prince’s favorite snacks including popcorn, pancakes and Tootsie Pops will be available throughout the celebration.

A Purple Celebration is part of the Guthrie’s series of “Happenings,” which are periodic and timely events that are responsive to current events and are immediately relevant to the world around us. “Happenings” are part of the Guthrie’s Level Nine Series, conceptualized by Artistic Director Joseph Haj and generously 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 *Enacting the Dream*, an opportunity to reflect upon the lived realities of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients living in the United States; *Aftermath: A Newtown Screening and Community Conversation*, about the impact of gun violence on public health; *Anthems for Community*, a celebration supporting the diversity of voices, histories and experiences in the Guthrie community; *Water Is Sacred*, a performance 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 Donald J. Trump and how he rose to his standing in the 2016 presidential race; and *Acting Black*, a solo project by Carlyle Brown that explored the appropriation of the African American narrative.

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

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