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**GUTHRIE THEATER PRESENTS HENRIK IBSEN'S PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER,
AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE
NEWLY ADAPTED FOR THE GUTHRIE THEATER BY BRAD BIRCH
AND DIRECTED BY LYNDSEY TURNER**

**Previews begin Saturday, April 28; Opening on Friday, May 4;
Playing through Sunday, June 3, 2018
on the McGuire Proscenium Stage at the Guthrie Theater**

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*)—The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) announced casting for Henrik Ibsen's thrilling drama, *An Enemy of the People*. Newly adapted for the Guthrie Theater by Brad Birch, this play—a story originally crafted in 1882 examining political ambitions, moral integrity and personal/public perceptions of responsibility—still resonates today under the direction of Lyndsey Turner, associate director for London's National Theatre.

An Enemy of the People plays April 28 – June 3, 2018 on the McGuire Proscenium Stage. Single tickets start at \$15 for preview performances (April 28 – May 3) and are on sale now through the Box Office at 612.377.2224, toll-free 877.44.STAGE, 612.225.6244 (Group Sales) and online at guthrietheater.org.

An Enemy of the People follows Tom Stockmann, a geologist who discovers dangerous water pollution in the Springs, a highly-anticipated resort spa set to open in a Norwegian town. In Tom's mind, the path to a solution is clear: inform the public and close the resort to prevent a crisis. But gradually, he comes under fire—from his brother (the town's mayor), the press, his neighbors and his own family—for wanting to publicize a problem that threatens to destroy the town's economy and reputation. With ripped-from-the-headlines relevance, this high-intensity drama is a powerful investigation of ambition, integrity and the price we pay for truth.

The Guthrie Theater produced *An Enemy of the People* only once before, staging a translation by John Patrick Vincent in 1976. Playwright Brad Birch's adaptation was first produced in 2016 in Wales and Scotland, and his thrilling new and expanded adaptation for the Guthrie Theater reframes *Enemy of the People* as political thriller. Dispensing with the intermission and paring back the cast of characters to eight, Birch's lean, muscular writing and poetic imagination stay true to the spirit of the Ibsen, if not the letter. The Guthrie's production may be set in a contemporary Norwegian city, but its themes, ideas and imagery resonate far beyond Ibsen's original setting.

"Henrik Ibsen embraced social issues of his day head-on in his writing," said artistic director Joseph Haj. "*An Enemy of the People* was written 136 years ago, yet Brad Birch's bold adaptation has found new relevance in today's world." He continued, "It's thrilling to bring this story to life for our Guthrie audiences, and I'm delighted to have Lyndsey Turner at the helm."

Lyndsey Turner makes her directorial debut at the Guthrie Theater along with a team assembled from both sides of the Atlantic. A Welsh playwright, German set designer, Irish lighting designer and English

director collaborate with an accomplished company of actors drawn from San Antonio, Los Angeles, New York and the Twin Cities.

The cast for *An Enemy of the People* features **Sarah Agnew** (Guthrie: *Watch on the Rhine*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *The Servant of Two Masters*) as Kate, **Christian Bardin** (Guthrie: *Sunday in the Park with George*, *The Crucible*, *The Primrose Path*) as Petra, **Billy Carter** (Guthrie: debut) as Tom Stockmann, **Ricardo Chavira** (Guthrie: *A Streetcar Named Desire*) as Peter Stockmann, **J.C. Cutler** (Guthrie: *King Lear*, *A Christmas Carol*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*) as Aslaksen, **Zachary Fine** (Guthrie: *Julius Caesar*) as Morten Kiil, **Zarif Kabier** (Guthrie: debut) as Billing and **Mo Perry** (Guthrie: *The Royal Family*, *The Heidi Chronicles*) as Hovstad.

The creative team includes **Brad Birch** (Adapter), **Lyndsey Turner** (Director), **Merle Hensel** (Scenic Designer), **Brenda Abbondandolo** (Costume Designer), **Jane Cox** (Lighting Designer), **Broken Chord** (Original Music and Sound Design), **Carla Steen** (Dramaturg), **Jill Walmsley Zager** (Vocal Coach), **Tree O'Halloran** (Stage Manager), **Jason Clusman** (Assistant Stage Manager) and **Taous Claire Khazem** (Assistant Director).

Brad Birch (Playwright) is the writer in residence at Undeb Theatre and is under commission at the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre. Brad has had work produced by the Royal Court, Sherman Cymru, Theatre503 and the National Theatre. His work has been performed in the United States, Germany, Italy, Russia and Spain and his 2013 show *Gardening: For the Unfulfilled and Alienated* won a Scotsman Edinburgh Fringe First Award. Brad also teaches playwriting; having taught the Introduction to Playwriting course at the Royal Court, he now runs the New Welsh Playwrights Programme at the Sherman Theatre. In March 2016, Brad was announced as the recipient of the Harold Pinter Commission.

Lyndsey Turner (Director) is an associate director of the National Theatre in London. Her previous work includes *Philadelphia*, *Here I Come!*, *Fathers and Sons*, and *Faith Healer* for the Donmar Warehouse; *Girls and Boys*, *Posh and Contractions* for the Royal Court, *Tipping The Velvet* for the Lyric Hammersmith, *Hamlet* for the Barbican, *Machinal* on Broadway and *Chimerica* for the Almeida and in the West End for which she won the Laurence Olivier Award for best director—only the third female director to do so in the ceremony's 42-year history. She also won the Critics Circle Theatre Awards for best director for the same play. Turner's work for the National Theatre includes *Saint George and the Dragon*, *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire*, *Edgar and Annabel* and *There is a War*.

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; 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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