



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 3, 2018
Press release #1757

For more information contact:
Marita Meinerts Albinson,
612.225.6142

GUTHRIE REPORTS A SURPLUS IN 2017–2018 FISCAL YEAR
Theater hits the highest ticket sales revenue in its 55-year history

[View the Guthrie Theater 2017–2018 Annual Report](#)

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*) — At its 2018 annual meeting today, the Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, artistic director) reflected upon the artistic and financial successes of its 2017–2018 Season, which ended on August 31, 2018. In a season defined by an eclectic mix of classic and contemporary plays exploring themes from social customs to family dynamics to moral integrity, the theater once again achieved an operating surplus — \$22,213 on a \$29 million budget. The theater also marked its highest ticket revenue in a given season in the Guthrie’s history, bolstered by the blockbuster summer musical *West Side Story*, which played to 100% of capacity. Overall, the season played to more than 80% of capacity — a further indicator of community engagement and support.

The Guthrie's work and artistry in the 2017–2018 Season centered on the theater's four core values of Artistic Excellence; Community; Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; and Financial Responsibility. "On July 1, 2018, I celebrated my three-year anniversary at the Guthrie, and I couldn't be prouder of the work we've done together," stated Artistic Director Joseph Haj. "Artistically, we featured prolific and diverse playwrights, an inspiring lineup of directors, creative teams and actors who moved our audiences to laughter, tears, introspection and action. I firmly believe that a theater belongs to the community it serves, and my great hope is that audiences saw more of themselves and their neighbors in our work this season."

Board Chair Martha Goldberg Aronson added, "We continue to attract top talent from around the region, the country and the world, and the diversity of our actors, directors and contributing artists continues to reflect the increased diversity of our communities." Of the financial successes, Aronson remarked, "I am beyond grateful for the generous support of our donors and the ongoing commitment to this great theater that strives to create transformative experiences for our audiences. Because of this generosity, along with a leadership team who operates with strong financial stewardship, we ended the season with an operating surplus."

The Guthrie Board of Directors elected officers at its annual meeting. **Martha Goldberg Aronson** (former executive vice president and president, global healthcare, Ecolab Inc.) was re-elected as chair, **James L. Chosy** (executive vice president and general counsel, U.S. Bancorp) was elected as vice chair, **Joseph Haj** (artistic director, Guthrie Theater) was elected as director, **David Dines** (corporate senior vice president, Cargill) was elected as treasurer and **Jamie Wilson** (community leader) was elected as secretary.

The following individuals were re-elected to the Board for a second three-year term: **Terry Clark** (United Health Group), **Diane Hofstede** (community leader), **John Junek** (community leader), **Jay Kiedrowski** (Humphrey School of Public Affairs), **Helen Meyer** (community leader), **Wendy Nelson** (community leader), **Ron Schutz** (Robins Kaplan LLP), **Tim Scott** (Land O'Lakes), **Jim Stephenson** (community leader), **Steve Thompson** (Brigham Health, an Affiliate of Harvard Medical School), **Steve Webster** (community leader) and **Heidi Wilson** (community leader).

Senator Richard J. Cohen (State of Minnesota), **Todd Hartman** (Best Buy), **David Hurrell** (Minneapolis Heart Institute) and **Robert Rosenbaum** (Dorsey & Whitney LLP) return to the Board, while **Nima Ahmadi** (senior director, strategic ventures and platforms, Cardiovascular Systems, Inc.), **Tim Huebsch** (senior IT manager, supply chain field solutions, General Mills), **Christine Kalla** (executive vice president, general counsel and chief ethics officer, Travelers) and **Michael McCormick** (executive vice president and general counsel, Ecolab Inc.) were welcomed as newly elected members who will each serve a three-year term. **Charles A. Zelle** (Minnesota Department of Transportation) was elected as a lifetime director.

At the Guthrie Board meeting on June 5, 2018, the following individuals were elected for one three-year term: **Abdhis Bhavsar** (The Retina Center), **David M. Lilly** (community leader) and **Todd Noteboom** (Stinson Leonard Street).

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 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 Financial 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

###