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**GUTHRIE THEATER ANNOUNCES WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *AS YOU LIKE IT*,
A GENDER-BENDING ROMANTIC COMEDY
FEATURING FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FOREST (OF ARDEN)**

**Previews begin Saturday, February 9; Opening on Friday, February 15;
Playing through Sunday, March 17, 2019, on the Wurtele Thrust Stage**

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." – Jaques to Duke Senior

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*) — The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, artistic director) today announced casting for Shakespeare's **As You Like It**, a gender-bending romantic comedy directed by Lavina Jadhvani in her Guthrie debut. Originally performed at the Guthrie in 1966, this is the sixth Guthrie production of the Bard's humorous, pastoral tale of mistaken identities, the journey from injustice to forgiveness and loves lost and won (both familial and romantic).

As You Like It will run February 9 – March 17, 2019, on the Wurtele Thrust Stage. Single tickets start at \$15 for preview performances (February 9–14) and are on sale now through the Box Office at 612.377.2224, 1.877.44.STAGE (toll-free) or online at guthrietheater.org. Post-play discussions and access services (ASL-interpreted, audio-described and open-captioned performances) are available on select dates and by request.

In this charming romantic comedy that centers on Rosalind and Orlando, everything seems to get turned around: lords and ladies are banished from court, brothers are at odds and guises abound in the Forest of Arden. Set in the here and now with the same great Shakespeare text, this amusing and often-musical world of royalty, rebels and clowns comes together in the end to celebrate four weddings between some of the Bard's most beloved characters.

Shakespeare's *As You Like It* cleverly reminds us that in all circumstances there are more questions than answers and more puzzles than certainties. Eventually, villainy and misdeeds are exposed and converted to virtue, rightful claims get restored and order is re-established. A celebratory ending where divided worlds come together in reconciliation offers a satisfying resolution of conflict and gives a nod to the power of love and playfulness.

"I love this play entirely," said Artistic Director Joseph Haj during the first rehearsal. "It is a brilliant and utterly charming comedy, filled with keen observations of family, gender, the rural/urban divide, and finally four couples bonding in marriage. It is one of Shakespeare's greatest creations, and in the capable hands of director Lavina Jadhvani, will be a treat for our entire community."

An enthusiastic Jadhvani responded, "The theme that has kept me coming back to this play is the idea of family — how families are pulled apart at the beginning of this play, but ultimately how they are brought back together by the end. There's so much healing and forgiveness to be found in this story."

The cast of *As You Like It* features **Sarah Agnew** (Guthrie: *An Enemy of the People, Watch on the Rhine, Relics*) as Touchstone, **Jesse Bhamrah** (Guthrie: debut) as Orlando, **Sun Mee Chomet** (Guthrie: *King Lear, Harvey, Othello, the Moor of Venice*) as Phoebe, **Christiana Clark** (Guthrie: debut) as Corin/Hymen), **Ryan Colbert** (Guthrie: *A Christmas Carol, Frankenstein – Playing With Fire, Choir Boy*) as Dennis/Lord, **Brandon Dahlquist** (Guthrie: debut) as Charles/Amiens, **Austen T. Fisher** (Guthrie: *The Music Man*) as Lord/William, **Nathaniel Fuller** (Guthrie: *A Christmas Carol, King Lear, The Crucible*) as Adam/Sir Oliver Martext, **Meghan Kreidler** (Guthrie: *A Christmas Carol*) as Rosalind, **Marika Proctor** (Guthrie: debut) as Audrey, **Andrea San Miguel** (Guthrie: debut) as Celia, **Eric Sharp** (Guthrie: *A Christmas Carol, M. Butterfly*) as Lord/Jacques de Boys, **Chris Thorn** (Guthrie: debut) as Duke Frederick/Duke Senior, **Angela Timberman** (Guthrie: *The Royal Family, A Christmas Carol, My Fair Lady*) as Jaques, **Luis Vega** (Guthrie: debut) as Oliver and **Max Wojtanowicz** (Guthrie: *Sunday in the Park With George*) as Le Beau/Silvius.

The creative team for *As You Like It* includes **Lavina Jadhvani** (director), **Tanya Birl** (choreographer), **Junghyun Georgia Lee** (scenic designer), **Ilona Somogyi** (costume designer), **Sarah Hughey** (lighting designer), **Broken Chord** (original music and sound design), **Carla Steen** (dramaturg), **Jill Walmsley Zager** (resident voice coach), **Aaron Preusse** (fight director), **Justin Hossle** (stage manager), **Jamie J. Kranz** (assistant stage manager) and **Kelly M. Galvin** (assistant director).

Lavina Jadhvani (director) is a Chicago-based director, adapter and activist. As a second generation immigrant, Jadhvani constantly investigates the question, "What does it mean to be an American?" and through her work, she strives to expand the definition of that word to include more minority voices.

Her directing credits include work at Actors Theatre of Louisville, American Conservatory Theater, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Remy Bumppo Theatre Company,

Teatro Vista, Writers Theatre and Rasaka Theatre Company, where she served as artistic director for six years. Jadhvani maintains relationships with Silk Road Rising (as an artistic associate), Steppenwolf Theatre (as an artistic engagement associate) and the National New Play Network's Affiliated Artists Council. *Time Out Chicago* named her the Best Next Generation Stage Director in 2013. She received her M.F.A. in directing from The Theatre School at DePaul University, and she received a B.F.A. in scenic design and M.A. in arts management from Carnegie Mellon University.

This production of *As You Like It* is sponsored by U.S. Bank.

The National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest presents Shakespeare in American Communities. The Guthrie is one of 40 professional theater companies selected to participate in bringing the finest productions of Shakespeare to middle and high school students in communities across the United States.

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 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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