



---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 29, 2019  
Press release #1761

For more information contact:  
Marita Meinerts Albinson,  
612.225.6142  
maritaa@guthrietheater.org

Allie McCurnin, 612.225.6196  
alliem@guthrietheater.org

---

**THE GUTHRIE THEATER PRESENTS MARTHA GRAHAM CRACKER'S  
*LASHED BUT NOT LEASHED* IN THE DOWLING STUDIO  
Playing February 14–16, 2019  
Four performances only**

**Part of the curated festival *Get Used To It: A Celebration of Queer Artistry***

(Minneapolis/St. Paul) — The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, artistic director) announces the presentation of Martha Graham Cracker's *Lashed But Not Leashed* — the second of three presentations in the Guthrie's curated festival titled **Get Used To It: A Celebration of Queer Artistry**. The show, originally commissioned and developed through the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts' Theater Residency program in partnership with Joe's Pub at The Public Theater, had its world premiere in the spring of 2017.

As part of the Guthrie Theater's Level Nine Initiative to present theater that is brave, immediate and deeply engaging, all seats are general admission, every ticket is \$9 and each performance includes an audience engagement component. Tickets are on sale now through the Box Office at 612.377.2224 or 1.877.44.STAGE (toll-free) and online at [guthrietheater.org](http://guthrietheater.org).

Self-described as "No lip synching. Just lip," Martha Graham Cracker lives inside the frenzied mind, body and spirit of Pig Iron Theatre Company co-founder **Dito van Reigersberg**. Backed by a live band, Martha croons a music-driven fever dream of a show about a life of hard living and even harder loving. The dazzling drag-cabaret darling reminisces about her strange and distorted past, belting out original tunes and dishing up ridiculous stories. Then she looks at the state of the world today and finds herself in despair until she comes up with a plan: Tonight is the night she will bury her own heart.

Martha Graham Cracker's *Lashed But Not Leashed* will play in the Dowling Studio for four performances, and the black box theater space will be transformed into a cabaret with tables and chairs. Dates and times for the limited run include:

Thursday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m. (preview)

Friday, February 15 at 7:30 p.m. (opening)

Saturday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

The performers and collaborating songwriters of *Lashed But Not Leashed* include **Dito van Reigersberg** (Guthrie: debut) as **Martha Graham Cracker** and band members **David Sweeny** on vox, harmonica and glockenspiel, **Eliza Hardy-Jones** on vox and piano and **Vince Federici** on guitar. The performance will also feature **Charlie Heim** on drums, **Andrew Nelson** on bass Thursday and Friday and **Benjamin James Kelly** on bass Saturday.

The creative team for *Lashed But Not Leashed* includes **Joanna Settle** (director), **Ethan Lipton** and **Dito van Reigersberg** (book), **Kimberly Max Brown** (costume designer), **Oona Curley** (lighting designer) and **Sarah Chandler** (producing stage manager).

### **ABOUT MARTHA GRAHAM CRACKER**

Hailing from the City of Brotherly Love and a regular at Joe's Pub at The Public Theater, Martha Graham Cracker is the self-proclaimed "tallest, hairiest drag queen in the world." Her monthly cabaret series at Philadelphia's L'Etage has been running for more than 13 years. From inventing bar-top Pilates to channeling Chaka Khan to making landings on the laps of hapless audience members, this unstoppable revolution in a wig brings her narrative and musical shenanigans to theaters and clubs across the globe, from Kensington to Kentucky, Austin to Boston and Provincetown to Poland.

In a 2018 interview with *Philadelphia* magazine's Khanya Brann, Martha shared, "The type of drag I do is known as monster drag. As opposed to illusion drag [where performers try to look as much like women as possible]. I'm really having fun being playful with the gender signifiers and the way I am speaking and behaving. ... I like confusing people." As the performance seamlessly moves from comedy to raw sadness to glitter, the audience may be unsure of how to feel, and that is precisely the point. With her face fully glammed up and her hairy chest exposed, Martha wants the audience to experience a dizzying gamut of emotions — with plenty of rock and roll, daredevil physicality and ridiculous joy in the mix.

### **ABOUT DITO van REIGERSBERG**

Dito van Reigersberg is best known for his alter-ego, Martha Graham Cracker, as well as being the co-founder of Pig Iron Theatre Company, a physical-theater company that has created over 35 original pieces in its 24-year history. He has performed in nearly all of Pig Iron's productions since 1995, including the Obie-winning *Hell Meets Henry Halfway* and *Chekhov Lizardbrain*. He has also created and performed with Headlong Dance Theater, Azuka Theatre, Mauckingbird Theatre Company, [Arden](#)

[Theatre Company](#) and Nichole Canuso Dance Company. He received two Barrymore Awards for Pig Iron's *Mission to Mercury* (Outstanding Ensemble) and *Cafeteria* (Outstanding Choreography) and a nomination for Azuka Theatre's *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Outstanding Leading Performance in a Musical), as well as a [Helen Hayes](#) Award nomination for *Hell Meets Henry Halfway* (Outstanding Lead Actor). Along with his Pig Iron cohorts Dan Rothenberg and Quinn Bauriedel, he was named a Pew Fellow in 2002 and a United States Artists Theater & Performance Fellow in 2010. A graduate of Swarthmore College, he trained at [Neighborhood Playhouse](#) and the [Martha Graham](#) School.

Programming in the Dowling Studio is supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The Guthrie Theater's 2018–2019 Season sponsors include Bell Bank, The Minnesota State Arts Board, The Shubert Foundation, Target and U.S. Bank.

*Lashed But Not Leashed* was created as part of New York Voices, a commissioning program of Joe's Pub at The Public Theater. Support for New York Voices is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts. Commissioned and originally produced by the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

### **ABOUT GET USED TO IT: A CELEBRATION OF QUEER ARTISTRY**

In the early 1990s, a bold slogan united the gay community and simultaneously demanded acceptance: "We're here. We're queer. Get used to it." This winter, the Guthrie Theater is proud to celebrate queer voices from around the globe with three acclaimed pieces that buoyantly and passionately challenge traditional notions of gender and sexuality. Presented as part of the Level Nine Series, each performance will share an illuminating view of the world through an unapologetic queer lens.

### **Get Used To It: A Celebration of Queer Artistry in the Guthrie Theater's Dowling Studio**

The Guthrie Theater presents  
a Split Britches production of  
***Unexploded Ordnances (UXO)***  
performed by LOIS WEAVER and PEGGY SHAW  
written by LOIS WEAVER, PEGGY SHAW and HANNAH MAXWELL  
January 25 – February 10, 2019

The Guthrie Theater presents  
Martha Graham Cracker's  
***Lashed But Not Leashed***  
songs by DITO van REIGERSBERG, DAVID SWEENEY, ELIZA HARDY JONES and VINCE FEDERICI  
directed by JOANNA SETTLE  
February 14–16, 2019

The Guthrie Theater presents  
***Hi, Are You Single?***  
written and performed by RYAN J. HADDAD  
directed by LAURA SAVIA  
February 21–24, 2019

### **ABOUT THE GUTHRIE THEATER**

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](http://guthrietheater.org)

###