



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE GUTHRIE THEATER PRESENTS TWO FREE COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS
AS PART OF GET USED TO IT: A CELEBRATION OF QUEER ARTISTRY**

***body fail body* on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.**
***The Laramie Project: A Reading and Conversation* on Sunday, March 3, 2019, at 7 p.m.**

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*) — The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, artistic director) today announced two upcoming free community Happenings, ***body fail body*** and ***The Laramie Project: A Reading and Conversation***, in correlation with the Guthrie's curated festival **Get Used To It: A Celebration of Queer Artistry**. Each Happening is open to the public and takes place in the Dowling Studio. The events are free, but reservations for up to two tickets per event are required through the Guthrie Box Office at 612.377.2224 or 1.877.44.STAGE (toll-free) or online at guthrietheater.org.

Guthrie Happenings are free, periodic events prompted by current headlines, social issues or themes being explored on our stages. As part of the Level Nine Initiative and generously supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, these events create a forum in which citizens can grapple with today's biggest topics and questions.

ABOUT *body fail body*

Wednesday, February 27

7:30–9 p.m.

Dowling Studio

The Guthrie is proud to host a one-night-only event from the producers of *Lightning Rod* — a local theater initiative that produces of-the-moment performance art and celebrates queer and trans artistry. Through a collaborative array of dance, movement, song, poetry, absurdism, ritual, dialogue, call and response and more, this real-time experience/experiment in continuity invites the audience to not only bear witness, but take part in the responsibility and honor of the work. Join us for this special event featuring Twin Cities artists who dare to look at current events and create a forum for art and community that allows us all to respond.

body fail body features the work of **Lisa Marie Brimmer, Pedro Pablo Lander, Marcela Michelle, Kat Purcell, Keila Anali Saucedo, Yoni Tamang** and **Taja Will**.

Lightning Rod is a theater initiative born from the collaboration of Patrick's Cabaret, Kat Purcell and Marcela Michelle. In the span of a few days, *Lightning Rod* takes on the challenge of creating theater that interprets and responds to current events, conceptualizing and putting into practice the way artists respond to ongoing and emerging issues. In their own words: "Our ensemble comes together to learn from each other, bring our spaces and rituals, use real objects, draw natural parallels, recycle tropes, peel layers and explore endurance and pleasure."

In light of last year's closing of Patrick's Cabaret after 32 years as an incubator for and by queer artists — and as several other local venues who support experimental work close their doors — Kat and Marcela continue to look for new ways to create opportunities for queer and trans artistic expression and development.

ABOUT *THE LARAMIE PROJECT: A READING AND CONVERSATION*

Sunday, March 3

7–10 p.m.

Dowling Studio

In response to the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard in 1998, a group of theater artists traveled to Laramie, Wyoming, and conducted hundreds of interviews about the hate crime. Drawing from their research, personal journal entries and news reports, they created *The Laramie Project* — an innovative, dialogue-driven theater piece that has been performed across the country and around the world since its 2002 debut. Directed by the play's head writer **Leigh Fondakowski** (Guthrie: *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, *The People's Temple*) and featuring staff, clients and community members of **RECLAIM**, this special evening of reading and conversation will look at how Shepard's death and *The Laramie Project* have impacted queer culture and youth for the past two decades.

The Laramie Project, by Moisés Kaufman and members of Tectonic Theater Project, premiered at The Ricketson Theatre in February 2002 with the Denver Center Theatre Company and was then performed at the Union Square Theatre in New York City before a November 2002 performance in Laramie, Wyoming. In 2008, Tectonic Theater Project went back to Laramie and developed *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, which was performed on the Guthrie's McGuire Proscenium Stage in 2009.

Leigh Fondakowski is the head writer of *The Laramie Project*, a member of Tectonic Theatre Project, an Emmy-nominated co-screenwriter for HBO's adaptation of *The Laramie Project* and a co-writer of *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*. Her play *The People's Temple* was performed under her direction at the Guthrie Theater, American Theater Company and Berkeley Repertory Theatre. She is a 2007 recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts/Theatre Communications Group Theatre Residency

Program for Playwrights and a 2009 MacDowell Colony fellow. She was an Imagine Fund fellow and guest lecturer in 2010 at the University of Minnesota where she completed her play, *Casa Cushman*, about the 19th-century American actress Charlotte Cushman.

RECLAIM is a Twin Cities-based organization that increases access to mental health support so queer and trans youth ages 12–26 may reclaim their lives from oppression in all its forms. They provide therapy to over 65 youth each week, 80 percent of whom are trans or gender-nonconforming; develop practitioners with an emphasis on changing the landscape of access to care in our region through training people of color and Indigenous therapists in gender-competent care; and partner with the community through outreach, education and the intersection of gender and racial justice. Learn more at www.reclaim.care.

ABOUT HAPPENINGS

Previous Happenings include *Amber Sanctuary*, in response to the recent, tragic mass shootings in which our notions of sanctuaries and safe spaces have been attacked; *An Immigrants' Cabaret*, an evening of music, movement and poetry; *A Purple Celebration* honoring the legacy of the late Minneapolis music legend Prince; *Enacting the Dream*, an opportunity to reflect on the lived realities of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals 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 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.

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

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

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

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

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[Photo for *body fail body*](#)

[Photo for *The Laramie Project: A Reading and Conversation*](#)