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**GUTHRIE THEATER PRESENTS MARY ZIMMERMAN'S *METAMORPHOSES*,  
A VISUALLY STUNNING MASTERPIECE BASED ON THE MYTHS OF OVID**

**Previews begin Saturday, April 13; Opening on Thursday, April 18;  
Playing through Sunday, May 19 on the Wurtele Thrust Stage**

*(Minneapolis/St. Paul)* — The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, artistic director) is proud to present ***Metamorphoses***, a co-production with Berkeley Repertory Theatre directed by award-winning playwright **Mary Zimmerman**

(Guthrie: *The White Snake*). After an extended run at Berkeley Repertory Theatre that closed on March 24, Zimmerman's celebrated production will come to the Guthrie.

*Metamorphoses* will run April 13 – May 19, 2019, on the Wurtele Thrust Stage. Single tickets start at \$15 for preview performances (April 13–17) and are on sale now through the Box Office at 612.377.2224, 1.877.44.STAGE (toll-free) or online at [guthrietheater.org](http://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 what's considered Zimmerman's signature theatrical piece, once hailed as "the theater event of the year" (*Time*), the Tony Award-winning director and playwright juxtaposes the ancient and the contemporary in a ravishing theatricalization of Roman poet Ovid's powerful masterwork, *Metamorphoses*. Performed in and around a large pool of water, an ensemble of actors embodies figures from Greek mythology to share both well-known and rarely told stories of transformation.

Originally produced in 1998 at Chicago's Lookingglass Theatre Company, where Zimmerman is a company member, *Metamorphoses* has been successfully produced around the country, including runs Off-Broadway at Second Stage Theater in 2001 and on Broadway at Circle in the Square Theatre in 2002. According to the *San Francisco Examiner*, this famed piece is "moving, dreamlike and thrillingly theatrical ... Zimmerman's deep dive into the myths of Ovid is as fluid as its setting: a pool of water that serves as the stage for this mesmerizing 100-minute retelling of some of humanity's oldest and most familiar tales."

Ovid's greatest work, *Metamorphoses*, is an epic poem in narrative form that describes the creation and history of the world through the parables of Greek mythology. It is the source from which we know the stories of Midas' golden touch and the fatal self-regard of Narcissus, as well as the lesser-known stories of the lovers Alcyone and Ceyx and the greed of Erysichthon, who disregards the divine. Central to all these tales is a physical transformation that both destroys and creates, underscoring that the only constancy is change.

Zimmerman used David R. Slavitt's translation of the classic work to create her masterful adaptation. In telling stories of change, *Metamorphoses* celebrates the very essence of theater — its imagination, its abiding preoccupation with transformation and its origins in the embodiment of the divine. "Throughout our lives, even the luckiest will experience radical, unwanted change. It is natural, necessary and painful," says Zimmerman. "It's the condition of human life. We will lose what we love and we will grow old, yet something new is created in all these transformations and life persists."

The cast of *Metamorphoses* includes **Steven Epp** (Guthrie: *Indecent, Refugia, The Servant of Two Masters*) as Erysichthon and others, **Raymond Fox** (Guthrie: debut) as Midas and others, **Rodney Gardiner** (Guthrie: debut) as Phaeton and others, **Benjamin T. Ismail** (Guthrie: debut) as Hermes/Vertumnus and others, **Louise Lamson** (Guthrie: debut) as Alcyone and others, **Felicity Jones Latta** (Guthrie: debut) as Aphrodite and others, **Alex Moggridge** (Guthrie: debut) as Ceyx and others, **Sango Tajima** (Guthrie: debut) as Myrrha and others, **Lisa Tejero** (Guthrie: *The White Snake*) as Therapist and others and **Suzy Weller** (Guthrie: debut) as Eurydice and others.

The creative team for *Metamorphoses* includes **Mary Zimmerman** (adapter/director), **Daniel Ostling** (scenic designer), **Mara Blumenfeld** (costume designer), **T.J. Gerckens** (lighting designer), **Andre Pluess** (sound designer), **Willy Schwarz** (original music), **Jo Holcomb** (dramaturg), **Jill Walmsley Zager** (resident voice coach), **Jason Clusman** (stage manager), **Justin Hossle** (assistant stage manager) and **Natalie Novacek** (assistant director).

**Mary Zimmerman** (adapter/director) is an American director highly lauded for her theatrical adaptations of classic works. She received her B.S. in Theater and her M.A./Ph.D. in Performance Studies from Northwestern University. *Metamorphoses* was first conceived and developed at her alma mater where Zimmerman is currently a professor and holds the Jaharis Family Foundation Chair in Performance Studies. She is a company member of Lookingglass Theatre Company and an artistic associate at Goodman Theatre. In addition to her many honors, she is the recipient of the 1998 Genius Grant from the MacArthur Foundation and the 2002 Tony Award for Best Direction of a Play for *Metamorphoses*, which was nominated in three categories: Best Play, Best Scenic Design of a Play and Best Direction of a Play. Her other credits as an adapter/director include *The White Snake*, *The*

*Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci, The Secret in the Wings, Argonautika, Treasure Island, The Odyssey, The Arabian Nights, Eleven Rooms of Proust, The Jungle Book, Silk, S/M and Journey to the West.*

Zimmerman also directed *All's Well That Ends Well* and *Pericles* for the Goodman Theatre, *Henry VIII* and *Measure for Measure* for the New York Shakespeare Festival, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the Huntington Theatre Company and *Guys and Dolls* for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Wallis Annenberg Center. In 2002, Zimmerman created a new opera with Philip Glass called *Galileo Galilei*, which was presented at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Goodman Theatre and London's Barbican Centre. In recent years, she has staged *Rusalka*, *Armida* and *La Sonnambula* for the Metropolitan Opera in New York and *Lucia di Lammermoor* for Metropolitan Opera and La Scala in Milan. Each of these productions was broadcast live in movie theaters worldwide.

*Metamorphoses* is the second work by Zimmerman to be performed at the Guthrie. She directed her adaptation of *The White Snake* as part of the 2014–2015 Season.

**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)

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