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**GUTHRIE THEATER ANNOUNCES A TRIO OF VISIONARY LOCAL PRESENTATIONS
FOR 2019–2020 DOWLING STUDIO SEASON**

(Minneapolis/St. Paul) – The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, artistic director) announced three local presentations as part of the 2019–2020 Dowling Studio Season, including the debut of New Arab American Theater Works, the return of Theater Mu — the largest Asian American theater company in the Midwest — and an original piece by multimodal artist Vie Boheme. Additional productions, including national presentations, will be announced at a later date.

Single tickets start at \$9 for select performances, \$25 for weeknight performances and \$32 for weekend performances. Local presentations for the 2019–2020 Dowling Studio Season go on sale July 8 through the Box Office at 612.377.2224, 1.877.44.STAGE (toll-free) or online at guthrietheater.org.

“The Twin Cities theater community is one of the most thriving in the nation, filled with artists who are daring, political and vibrant,” said Artistic Director Joseph Haj. “Our partnerships with local and touring artists in the Dowling Studio are central to the work we do and the range and depth of the stories we’re able to share.” He continued, “In looking for work to present for our 2019–2020 Season, we tried to bring our audiences a variety of perspectives through companies they may know, artists who are new to them and opportunities to engage with the stories these artists are telling.”

New Arab American Theater Works’ production of ***Zafira and the Resistance***, written by Minnesota playwright Kathryn Haddad and directed by Malek Najjar and Zeina Salame, will play October 11–27, 2019. Arab. Middle Eastern. Muslim. These terms are thrown around in today’s news media, yet they continue to be equated with another set of words: Terrorist. War. Oppressive. This compelling play takes a critical look at Arab American identity, institutional racism, the generational struggles and fears of Arabs and Muslims and the possibility of collective punishment.

New Arab American Theater Works is a collective of Minnesota-based Arab, Arab American and Muslim theater artists. Their mission is to present new theater works that fill a local and national void of Arab American voices and provide opportunities for them to present their stories through theater. Learn more at www.newarabamericantheaterworks.org.

The regional premiere of ***Fast Company***, produced by Theater Mu, written by Carla Ching and directed by Brian Balcom, will play November 8–24, 2019. Mable Kwan is the best grifter that ever lived — a skill she proudly passes down to sons H and Francis, who become the best roper and fixer in town under her keen tutelage. When she finds out her daughter Blue has been scamming on the side and lands the score of the decade, the whole family gets in on the action. But who will walk away with it all?

Theater Mu has a longtime relationship with the Guthrie and previously produced *Charles Francis Chan Jr.’s Exotic Oriental Murder Mystery*, *You For Me For You*, *DeMayda’d* and *Circle Around the Island* on our stages. Theater Mu, under the new leadership of Artistic Director Lily Tung Crystal beginning in September, is committed to telling stories from the heart of the Asian American experience and presenting a fusion of traditional and contemporary artistic influences, which range from classics to up-and-coming voices in the community. Learn more at www.theatermu.org.

From March 20 to 28, 2020, the Guthrie will present ***CENTERPLAY*** — a new work created and performed by Vie Boheme. Born in Motown, developed in Pittsburgh and refined in Minneapolis, Vie Boheme self-describes her sound as a “fusion of fusions.” By combining vocals and live instrumentation, she creates a playground for eclectic sound and then adds hints of soul and electronic. Her artistic ear and love of movement merge in *CENTERPLAY*, which weaves song, dance, spoken word and monologues with dynamic dancing for an immersive twist on her signature style.

Vie Boheme is a multimodal artist, dancer, singer and choreographer. She brings an athletic agility to her vocal performance by singing and dancing in unison, eliminating the boundary between the visual and audio experience. She is a former dance artist with Camille A. Brown & Dancers and TU Dance and a founding member of the August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble. She has previously performed at the Guthrie with The New Griots Festival and in the mainstage productions of *West Side Story* and *Refugia*, and she has choreographed and performed with The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and The Moving Company. Learn more at www.listen2vie.com.

The Guthrie’s 2019–2020 Season sponsors include the Minnesota State Arts Board, The Shubert Foundation, Target and U.S. Bank. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

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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GUTHRIE THEATER 2019–2020 DOWLING STUDIO
LOCAL PRESENTATIONS

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a New Arab American Theater Works production of
Zafira and the Resistance
by KATHRYN HADDAD
directed by MALEK NAJJAR
and ZEINA SALAME
October 11–27, 2019

The Guthrie Theater presents
a Theater Mu production of
Fast Company
by CARLA CHING
directed by BRIAN BALCOM
November 8–24, 2019

The Guthrie Theater presents
CENTERPLAY
created and performed by VIE BOHEME
March 20–28, 2020