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**CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR THE WORLD PREMIERE OF *FLOYD'S*
BY TWO-TIME PULITZER PRIZE WINNER LYNN NOTTAGE**

Tony Award nominees Johanna Day and John Earl Jelks, members of the Broadway company of Nottage's *Sweat*, will star in the Guthrie-commissioned work

**Previews begin Saturday, July 27; Opening on Friday, August 2;
Playing through Saturday, August 31 on the McGuire Proscenium Stage**

(Minneapolis/St. Paul) — The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, artistic director) today announced casting for the world premiere of *Floyd's* by two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **Lynn Nottage**, directed by her longtime collaborator **Kate Whoriskey**. This Guthrie-commissioned work boasts a powerhouse cast

featuring two-time Tony Award nominee **Johanna Day**, Obie Award winner **Dame Jasmine Hughes**, Tony Award nominee **John Earl Jelks**, **Reza Salazar** and **Andrew Veenstra**.

Floyd's will run July 27 – August 31, 2019, on the McGuire Proscenium Stage. Single tickets start at \$15 for preview performances (July 27 – August 1), and regular ticket prices range from \$29 to \$78. Tickets 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.

Floyd's is a razor-sharp, disarmingly vulnerable comedy about a truck stop sandwich shop named after its tough-as-nails owner. But *Floyd's* is more than just a respite for truckers — it's the first step for its formerly incarcerated employees and their last hope for survival. A motley crew of line cooks forms under Zen Master Montrellous to learn the secret art of making the perfect sandwich.

The play is set in America's Rust Belt, where Nottage spent two years interviewing residents. Both *Floyd's* and her prizewinning play *Sweat* were inspired by her research. As previously announced, *Sweat* will close the Guthrie's 2019-2020 Season. *Floyd's* continues the story of *Sweat*, but through a different lens that examines the impact the criminal justice system has on returning citizens.

The cast of *Floyd's* includes two-time Tony Award nominee **Johanna Day** (Guthrie: debut; Broadway: *The Nap*, *Sweat*, *August: Osage County*, *Proof*) as Floyd, Obie Award winner **Dame Jasmine Hughes** (Guthrie: debut; Off-Broadway: *Is God Is*) as Letitia, Tony Award nominee **John Earl Jelks** (Guthrie: debut; Broadway: *Sweat*, *Radio Golf*, *Gem of the Ocean*) as Montrellous, **Reza Salazar** (Guthrie: debut; Broadway: *Sweat* u/s) as Rafael and **Andrew Veenstra** (Guthrie: debut; National tour: *War Horse*) as Jason.

The creative team for *Floyd's* includes **Kate Whoriskey** (director), **Laura Jellinek** (scenic designer), **Jennifer Moeller** (costume designer), **Christopher Akerlind** (lighting designer), **Justin Ellington** (sound designer), **Justin Hicks** (original music), **Jo Holcomb** (developmental dramaturg), **Morgan Holmes** (production dramaturg), **Jill Walmsley Zager** (resident voice coach), **Tree O'Halloran** (stage manager), **Katie Hawkinson** (assistant stage manager) and **Signe Harriday** (assistant director).

Lynn Nottage (playwright) is the first woman in history to win two Pulitzer Prizes for Drama (*Ruined* in 2009 and *Sweat* in 2017, which moved to Broadway after a sold-out run at The Public Theater). Recently named one of *TIME's* 100 Most Influential People, Nottage brings her work to the Guthrie stage for the second time, her first being *Intimate Apparel* in the fall of 2005. Other plays include *By the Way*, *Meet Vera Stark* (Lilly Award, Drama Desk Award nomination); *Ruined* (Pulitzer Prize, Obie Award); *Intimate Apparel* (American Theatre Critics Association and New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards for Best Play); *Fabulation*, or *The Re-Education of Undine* (Obie Award); *Crumbs From the Table of Joy*; *Las Meninas*; *Mud, River, Stone*; *Por'knockers*; and *POOF!*

Nottage recently wrote the book for the musical adaptation of Sue Monk Kidd's novel *The Secret Life of Bees*, with music by Duncan Sheik and lyrics by Susan Birkenhead. The world premiere, directed by Sam Gold, is currently playing at the Atlantic Theater Company through July 21, 2019.

In addition, Nottage is working with composer Ricky Ian Gordon to adapt her play *Intimate Apparel* into an opera. She has also developed *This Is Reading*, a performance installation at the Franklin Street, Reading Railroad Station in Reading, Pennsylvania. She is a writer and producer on the Netflix series "She's Gotta Have It" directed by Spike Lee, a Dramatists Guild member and an associate professor at Columbia University School of the Arts. Awards include the MacArthur Genius Grant Fellowship, Steinberg Distinguished Playwright Award and PEN/Laura Pels Master American Dramatist Award, among others.

Kate Whoriskey (director) has directed on Broadway, off-Broadway and regionally. Her directing credits for productions on Broadway include *Sweat* at Studio 54 and *The Miracle Worker* at Circle in the Square Theatre. Selected off-Broadway credits include *Songs for a New World* at Encores! Off-Center, *Sweat* at The Public Theater, *How I Learned to Drive* at Second Stage Theater, *Ruined* at Manhattan Theatre

Club, *Her Requiem* at Lincoln Center Theater, *Aubergine; Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine;* and *Inked Baby* at Playwrights Horizons and *The Piano Teacher* at Vineyard Theatre.

Whoriskey's regional credits include the Goodman Theatre, Geffen Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, Sundance Institute Theatre Lab, Shakespeare Theatre Company, American Repertory Theater, Huntington Theatre Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Baltimore Center Stage and Arena Stage, among others. Her opera direction has been seen at the Place du Châtelet in Paris and Teatro Municipal de São Paulo in Brazil. She has taught at Princeton University, New York University and University of California, Davis.

This production of *Floyd's* is sponsored by Ameriprise Financial and the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support provided by the Laurents/Hatcher Foundation and the Edgerton Foundation New Play Award.

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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