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**GUTHRIE THEATER TO PRESENT “IN CONVERSATION” WITH TWO-TIME PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT LYNN NOTTAGE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JOSEPH HAJ**

Named one of *TIME*'s 100 Most Influential People of 2019, Nottage returns to the Guthrie for an onstage discussion about her illustrious career and her latest work, *Floyd's*

**Monday, July 22 at 7:30 p.m. on the Wurtele Thrust Stage**

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*) — The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, artistic director) will present an In Conversation event with two-time Pulitzer Prize winner **Lynn Nottage**, playwright of this season's *Floyd's*, and Artistic Director **Joseph Haj** on Monday, July 22 at 7:30 p.m. on the Wurtele Thrust Stage. Tickets

are priced at \$15, \$20 and \$25 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).

The Guthrie's In Conversation series invites the community to listen in on thought-provoking discussions with artists and cultural leaders on topics related to current or upcoming work on our stages. Each behind-the-scenes experience includes a Q&A session between the audience and the featured guests.

Considered one of the most powerful voices in American theater, playwright Lynn Nottage has produced a notable body of work that tackles provocative societal issues with a blend of honesty, humor and heart. Her ability to craft a multifaceted story and create characters who evoke layers of empathy is unmatched — and she has two Pulitzers, countless theater awards and a devoted following of fans, contemporaries and critics to prove it. During this one-on-one conversation, Nottage and Haj will discuss her celebrated career, her creative process and the Guthrie commission that led to the creation of *Floyd's*.

Nottage was previously part of an In Conversation event in October 2005 when her award-winning drama *Intimate Apparel* was produced during the Guthrie's 2005–2006 Season. As previously announced, her Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Sweat* — which takes place in the same region as *Floyd's* — will close the Guthrie's 2019–2020 Season on the McGuire Proscenium Stage. Nottage describes the two plays as being “pieces in conversation with one another.”

**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.

**Joseph Haj** (moderator) is the artistic director of the Guthrie Theater where he has directed *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Sunday in the Park With George*, *King Lear*, *South Pacific*, *Pericles* and *West Side Story*, which was the highest-grossing production in Guthrie history. Prior to joining the Guthrie in 2015, he served as the producing artistic director at PlayMakers Repertory Company for nine years.

As a director, Haj has worked at theaters throughout the U.S. and directed projects in a maximum-security prison, rural South Carolina, the West Bank and Gaza. He received an M.F.A. from The University of North Carolina before beginning a career in acting and working with many internationally known directors. He has been named one of 25 theater artists who will have a significant impact on the field over the next quarter-century by *American Theatre* magazine and is the recipient of the 2014 Zelda Fichandler Award (SDCF) and 2017 Rosetta LeNoire Award (AEA). He currently serves on the executive board of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

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](http://guthrietheater.org)

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