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August 9, 2019  
Press release #1780

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GUTHRIE THEATER PRESENTS A FREE COMMUNITY HAPPENING: THE ART OF SURVIVING**

**Monday, August 19 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on the Wurtele Thrust Stage**

*(Minneapolis/St. Paul)* — The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, artistic director) announced that it will present **The Art of Surviving**, the final Happening of the 2018–2019 Season, which is dedicated to diverse and personal stories of survival. The event will take place on Monday, August 19 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on the Wurtele Thrust Stage and is free to the public, but general admission ticket reservations are required through the Box Office at 612.377.2224, 1.877.44.STAGE (toll-free) or online at [guthrietheater.org](http://guthrietheater.org).

Guthrie Director of Community Engagement Rebecca Noon said, “The Twin Cities theater community — like so many other communities in our region and throughout our country — is reeling from simultaneous revelations of trauma and abuse. In an effort to add to the community dialogue and coalition-building that

many are offering, the Guthrie is presenting an evening that will lift up voices in our community who embody survivorship.”

The Art of Surviving will be hosted by H. Adam Harris and feature four speakers: Sharon Day, Ifrah Mansour, Laura Stearns and Saymoukda Vongsay. Each speaker is a survivor, and the discussion will encompass themes relating to generational trauma, war, sexual abuse and immigration. After the speakers share their personal stories of resiliency, audience members will be invited to reflect and process through small group discussions facilitated by local experts and fellow survivors. There will also be space for solitary or written reflection and non-facilitated group discussions.

Facilitators will include Robert O. Fisch, doctor, author and Holocaust survivor; Gary Green, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities; Seena Hodges, The Woke Coach; Robin Phillips, The Advocates for Human Rights; and Michel Rousseau, Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Minneapolis; among others.

The evening schedule is as follows:

6:30–7 p.m. House is open while Minneapolis-based band Kiss the Tiger performs  
7–8:30 p.m. Speaking program  
8:30–9:30 p.m. Small group discussions and reflection

The Art of Surviving is made possible through generous support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

#### **ABOUT HAPPENINGS**

Guthrie Happenings are free, periodic events prompted by current headlines, social issues or themes being explored on our stages. Recent Happenings include **A Response to Islamophobia**, an evening of reflection and support dedicated to the Muslim community after recent hate crimes; **body fail body** and **The Laramie Project: A Reading and Conversation**, events in correlation with the Guthrie’s curated festival Get Used To It: A Celebration of Queer Artistry; **Amber Sanctuary**, an event in response to the recent, tragic mass shootings that attacked our notions of sanctuaries and safe spaces; and **An Immigrants’ Cabaret**, an evening of music, movement and poetry featuring immigrant voices.

**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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