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**GUTHRIE THEATER PRESENTS "HAIR SALON,"
A FREE COMMUNITY EVENT INSPIRED BY THE WORLD OF *STEEL MAGNOLIAS***

Monday, November 11 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on the McGuire Proscenium Stage

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*) — The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, artistic director) announced that it will present **Hair Salon**, an evening of community conversation that explores hair as a historical, cultural and personal-yet-universal human obsession, in conjunction with the Guthrie's production of *Steel Magnolias*. The event will take place on Monday, November 11 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on the McGuire Proscenium Stage. Hair Salon is free and open 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.

Using the *Steel Magnolias* set as a backdrop, local hair experts and members of the drag community will share stories, demonstrate techniques and celebrate all things hair and beauty. The evening will include:

- Pre-show activities in the lobby:
 - A hair-inspired art show and vintage salon chairs
 - 1980s-inspired quick styles by Beauty Lounge Minneapolis and Curl Power Salon
 - HIV education by The Aliveness Project
- Drag numbers by Sasha Cassadine and Tygra
- Live hairstyling demos onstage
- An “Identity Kiki” discussion moderated by Guthrie Education Program Manager Siddeeqah Shabazz that will include the audience and feature the following guests:
 - Simone Spruce, former Marine
 - Adrienne Zimiga-January, Oglala Lakota
 - Alex Palacios, HIV activist and staff member at The Aliveness Project
 - Local drag queens Sasha Cassadine and Tygra

Taking cues from the themes in *Steel Magnolias*, Hair Salon invites the community to connect with the Twin Cities’ robust salon, beauty and drag cultures. The event will feature three community partners that have offered knowledge and support to the overall production and are committed to creating safe and transcendent spaces like Truvy’s hair salon in *Steel Magnolias*:

Beauty Lounge Minneapolis is a Twin Cities multicultural hair destination creating change in the beauty industry. They believe that salons should be inclusive spaces where all stylists are highly skilled on all hair textures. www.mplsbeautylounge.com.

Curl Power Salon believes that every person is innately and unquestionably beautiful. Curl, texture, wave, bend, coil, twist — however your crown is realized is powerful. They honor, respect and celebrate the right of each curly person to take up their rightful space and own their natural and unique beauty. www.curlpowersalon.com.

The Aliveness Project was founded as a community center for and driven by people living with HIV. For over 30 years, they have been facilitating connection to community, offering nutrition and wellness services and linking members to resources to lead fulfilling and healthy lives. www.aliveness.org.

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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