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**BELOVED STORYTELLER KEVIN KLING RETURNS TO THE GUTHRIE WITH
*TALES FROM THE CHARRED UNDERBELLY OF THE YULE LOG***

Monday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m. on the Wurtele Thrust Stage

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*) — The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, artistic director) announced that it will once again present Kevin Kling's ***Tales From the Charred Underbelly of the Yule Log*** on Monday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m. on the Wurtele Thrust Stage. After the performance, Kling will sign books and CDs on Level One. This holiday event is recommended for ages 8 and up. Single tickets are \$28 and on sale now through the Box Office at 612.377.2224, 1.877.44.STAGE (toll-free) or online at guthrietheater.org.

Best known for his popular commentaries on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" and his storytelling stage shows, Kling delivers hilarious, often tender stories that have delighted audiences around the country. With *Yule Log*, Kling spins hilarious yarns of family traditions and holiday merriment. Wry tales of Midwestern Americana, both old and new, take surprising turns from the bizarre to the insightful. *Yule Log* will also feature The Brass Messengers, Simone Perrin and Dan Chouinard.

Kling's plays and adaptations have been performed around the world. As a playwright, he has penned *21A*, *Home and Away*, *Fear and Loving in Minneapolis*, *The Ice Fishing Play* and *Lloyd's Prayer* in addition to his co-adaptations of Carlo Goldoni's *The Venetian Twins* and *The Canterbury Tales* for the Guthrie. In 2005, the Guthrie launched an eight-week regional tour of Kling's *Freezing Paradise: An Evening With Kevin Kling*, which visited more than 20 Minnesota communities and performed in Iowa, Michigan and North and South Dakota.

Kling's first book, *The Dog Says How*, brought readers into his world of the skewed and significantly mundane. The following *Kevin Kling's Holiday Inn* was a romp through a year of holidays and a lifetime of gathering material. Kling has written two children's books, *Big Little Brother* and *Big Little Mother*, and his latest book, *On Stage With Kevin Kling*, contains the full texts from three of his popular stage pieces.

Kling grew up in the suburbs of Minneapolis and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1979 with a B.A. in Theatre. His storytelling started when a friend from the now-defunct Brass Tacks Theatre asked him to perform his stories. Since then, he has been awarded numerous arts grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, McKnight Foundation, Minnesota State Arts Board, Bush Foundation, Jerome Foundation and others.

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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