



January 6, 2020
Press release #1794

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact:
Marita Meinerts Albinson,
612.225.6142
maritaa@guthrietheater.org

Allie McCurnin, 612.225.6196
alliem@guthrietheater.org

**GUTHRIE THEATER PRESENTS SHAKESPEARE'S *TWELFTH NIGHT*
FEATURING AN ALL-LOCAL CAST
AND THE GUTHRIE DIRECTORIAL DEBUT OF TWIN CITIES NATIVE TOM QUAINANCE**

**Previews begin Saturday, February 8; Opening on Friday, February 14;
Playing through Sunday, March 22 on the Wurtele Thrust Stage**

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*) — The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, artistic director) today announced the cast and creative team for the music-filled comedy *Twelfth Night*, written by William Shakespeare and directed by **Tom Quaintance**, who is making his hometown and Guthrie mainstage directorial debut. Quaintance has assembled an all-local ensemble to create a production that focuses on the need for love and delight despite the risks and hardships of life.

Twelfth Night will run February 8 – March 22, 2020, on the Wurtele Thrust Stage. Single tickets start at \$15 for preview performances (February 8–13) and regular tickets start at \$25. 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.

When a shipwrecked Viola washes up on Illyria's shores without her twin brother, she must adapt to her strange new surroundings on her own. For safety, she disguises herself as a boy and quickly finds favor and employment with the lovesick Orsino, who pines for Olivia's devotion. After a series of mishaps and plenty of mayhem, their love triangle becomes so entangled it brings all of Illyria along for the ride. When at last the truth is revealed, the Bard's starry-eyed tale proves that the revelry of love is something worth fighting for.

Twelfth Night was previously produced at the Guthrie in 1968, 1984 and 2001, and two British productions have been presented on the mainstage: Academy Award-winning English actor Mark Rylance played Olivia in an "original practices" production by Shakespeare's Globe in 2003, and Propeller produced a version in repertory with *The Taming of the Shrew* in 2013.

Quaintance recently shared, "I'm a visceral artist who speaks from the heart and aims for the gut. My work, at its best, has a deep sense of theatricality. In this Guthrie production, we are looking to create an entire world within which the play makes sense; it is not bound to a singular period. We'll take a contemporary, muscular approach to the work that is rooted in the text." In speaking about his Guthrie directorial debut, he continued, "*Twelfth Night* is not just another play for me. I grew up two blocks from the old building on Vineland Place. The Guthrie is where I first worked as an usher during my college summers and where I eventually took a directing internship that changed my life. The last line of my undergraduate thesis was, 'Someday I'll direct at the Guthrie.'"

The cast of *Twelfth Night* includes **Sarah Jane Agnew** (Guthrie: *As You Like It, An Enemy of the People, Watch on the Rhine*) as Maria/As Cast, **Nate Cheeseman** (Guthrie: *Cyrano de Bergerac, Juno and the Paycock*) as Orsino/As Cast, **Sun Mee Chomet** (Guthrie: *As You Like It, King Lear, Harvey*) as Olivia/As Cast, **Joy Dolo** (Guthrie: debut) as Sir Andrew/As Cast, **Tyson Forbes** (Guthrie: *Harvey, The Crucible, Nice Fish*) as Antonio/As Cast, **Emily Gunyou Halaas** (Guthrie: *A Christmas Carol, Sense and Sensibility, Sunday in the Park With George*) as Viola/As Cast, **Michael Hanna** (Guthrie: *Sense and Sensibility, The Lion in Winter, Born Yesterday*) as Sebastian/As Cast, **Jim Lichtscheidl** (Guthrie: *The Legend of Georgia McBride, Uncle Vanya, Clybourne Park*) as Malvolio/As Cast, **Luverne Seifert** (Guthrie: *The 39 Steps, The Government Inspector*) as Feste/As Cast and **Sally Wingert** (Guthrie: *Steel Magnolias, Noises Off, Blithe Spirit*) as Sir Toby/As Cast.

The creative team for *Twelfth Night* includes **Tom Quaintance** (director), **Naomi Dawson** (scenic designer), **Ann Closs-Farley** (costume designer), **Yi Zhao** (lighting designer), **Sartje Pickett** (sound designer/composer), **Carl Flink** (movement director), **Carla Steen** (resident dramaturg), **Jill Walmsley Zager** (resident voice coach), **Aaron Preusse** (resident fight director), **Jennifer Liestman** (resident casting director), **Jason Clusman** (stage manager), **Jane E. Heer** (assistant stage manager) and **Anna J. Crace** (assistant director).

Tom Quaintance (director) is the producing artistic director of Virginia Stage Company, where he has directed *Pride and Prejudice, The Secret Garden* and *Matilda the Musical*. He was previously the artistic director of Cape Fear Regional Theatre, where he produced over 35 plays and directed the world premiere of *Downrange: Voices From the Homefront* by Mike Wiley, which is based on interviews with military spouses from Fort Bragg. Directing highlights at Cape Fear Regional Theatre include *Amadeus* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra, *Sweeney Todd, Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Henry V*, in which he played Chorus. An associate artist at PlayMakers Repertory Company, Quaintance has directed *An Enemy of the People, Shipwrecked! An Entertainment* and *The Little Prince*, and he co-directed *Nicholas Nickleby* with Guthrie Artistic Director Joseph Haj.

Quaintance is the founder of FreightTrain Shakespeare in Los Angeles where he earned a Drama-Logue Award for his direction of *Pericles*. Other Los Angeles credits include *Henry V* (with Haj as King Henry),

Nicholas Nickleby (with Haj as Nicholas), *King Lear* and *The Devil With Boobs*. He received a B.A. in Theater and Economics from Wesleyan University and is a graduate of the University of California, San Diego's M.F.A. directing program.

Related events for the Guthrie Theater's production of *Twelfth Night*:

***Twelfth Night* Student Matinee Relaxed Performance**

Thursday, March 12 at 10:30 a.m. on the Wurtele Thrust Stage

The third relaxed performance of the 2019–2020 Season is a student matinee of *Twelfth Night*, which is designed for young patrons who may benefit from a more relaxed and judgment-free theatergoing experience. Relaxed performances are intentionally modified to accommodate patrons with sensory and vestibular sensitivities, anxiety, dementia, autism spectrum disorders, learning differences or challenges attending the theater. Guthrie Theater relaxed performances are sponsored by Target.

Group tickets (15+) to the *Twelfth Night* student matinee are \$16 per person. Contact Group Sales at 612.225.6244, 1.877.225.6211 (toll-free) or groups@guthrietheater.org. For more information, please visit www.guthrietheater.org/relaxed.

***Twelfth Night* Shakespeare Classic**

Sunday, March 15 at 1 p.m. on the Wurtele Thrust Stage

This performance marks the Guthrie's 21st Shakespeare Classic, a recurring event designed to introduce youth to the enduring works of Shakespeare. All tickets to this performance are \$10, and patrons receive a special program and an opportunity to meet actors after the show.

Tickets are not available online but may be purchased by visiting the Box Office or calling 612.377.2224. Every order must have at least one adult (but no more than two adults) per young person between the ages of 10 and 17.

The Guthrie's production of *Twelfth Night* is sponsored by U.S. Bank. This production is also part of Shakespeare in American Communities, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

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 more than 350,000 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

###