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**GUTHRIE THEATER CANCELS REMAINDER OF 2019–2020 SEASON WITH THE INTENTION TO  
RESUME PROGRAMMING IN SEPTEMBER**

**COVID-19 pandemic forces cancellation of season, necessitating a focus on fundraising**

*(Minneapolis/St. Paul)* — The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, artistic director) announced today it will cancel the remaining performances of its 2019–2020 Season, which was scheduled to run through August 2020, due to the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic. The Guthrie had previously announced the cancellation of performances through April 5, but ever-evolving health and safety information has led to the decision to cancel programming through the summer.

The cancellation of the remaining 2019–2020 Season will include *Emma* and *Cabaret* on the Wurtele Thrust Stage, *Destiny of Desire* and *Sweat* on the McGuire Proscenium Stage and all Dowling Studio

performances, including the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater B.F.A. Actor Training Program's production of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *Spotlight Cabaret*. At this time, the 2020–2021 Season is expected to open on the Wurtele Thrust Stage with Noël Coward's *Private Lives* in mid-September.

"While our stages have been dark, the Guthrie's family of staff, artists, volunteers, patrons, donors and the greater Twin Cities community has been on our minds and in our hearts as we've navigated this unprecedented moment," Artistic Director Joseph Haj recently shared from his home. "Like so many organizations, the Guthrie has been forced to make incredibly difficult decisions in the wake of the current pandemic, and after weighing countless scenarios, we've determined this is the only viable and responsible path forward."

Haj continued, "As stages sit empty around the world, my belief in the value of theater to illuminate our common humanity has only grown. I look forward to the day when we can gather together again as a community and share in stories that, as outlined in our vision, open the mind, stir the heart and ignite the imagination."

Current Guthrie ticket holders have been contacted regarding the cancellations and have the option to donate their tickets, place the value of their tickets on account for future use or request a refund. Those who choose to donate tickets or make other financial gifts to the theater during this time will be identified as Guthrie Luminaries — helping the theater keep its lights on — and acknowledged through special recognition on the Guthrie's website and throughout the course of next season in play programs.

The Guthrie building will remain closed to the public until further notice. Information regarding Guthrie fundraising campaigns and programming updates are available at [guthrietheater.org](http://guthrietheater.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 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](http://guthrietheater.org)

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