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**GUTHRIE THEATER REDUCES STAFF SIZE FOLLOWING  
BUDGET CUTS AND DELAYED 2020-2021 SEASON**

*(Minneapolis/St. Paul)* — The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) today announced a reduction in staff size by 79% due to adjustments made as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. As previously announced on May 8, the theater reduced its 2020–2021 Season budget by 60% and plans to produce three plays on the Wurtele Thrust Stage between March and August 2021. The 2020–2021 Season was originally scheduled for 10 plays and set to begin this September.

“The very premise of theater is the gathering of people — in the audience, in the lobbies, on the stage, in the rehearsal rooms and backstage,” said Joseph Haj, Artistic Director. “As a producing theater, our largest source of income is ticket sales. Being unable to perform for so long is financially devastating. It is this significant challenge, and the resultant change in programming, that necessitates both short-term and long-term layoffs as well as the elimination of positions. It is with a heavy heart that we share the loss of so many talented, creative, hardworking and beloved colleagues.”

When the theater stopped producing in March 2020, it employed 262 full-time and part-time staff members. In order to maintain operations while the theater is not producing plays on its stages, the theater will retain 55 employees. All remaining staff members were laid off or their positions were eliminated. As an additional cost-savings measure, the theater’s six-member senior management team will continue to receive 15% to 20% salary reductions, which began when the theater first canceled productions in March.

“I look forward to the day when we can safely welcome audiences and artists back to the Guthrie,” Haj continued. “If we can open before March, we will make every effort to do so. In the meantime, we remain focused on our mission, vision and values. We are taking these difficult and painful steps now to ensure that we will come back in a way that allows us to continue to serve the amazing community that has supported us for nearly 60 years.”

**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](http://guthrietheater.org)

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