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GUTHRIE THEATER RELEASES 2022–2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The theater experienced promising growth throughout its 60th season, which featured its first full slate of programming since 2019, despite facing persistent industry-wide challenges

(Minneapolis/St. Paul) — The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) today released the annual report for its 2022–2023 fiscal year, an anniversary season which closed on August 31, 2023. In the Guthrie’s first complete season of programming since FY19, the theater offered 10 mainstage productions and a total of 486 performances, up from 276 in the previous season. While the organization reported numerous artistic achievements and steady growth throughout an ambitious season, the nonprofit theater did not meet projected revenue goals in ticket sales,
fundraising and other sources of earned revenue, resulting in a deficit of $3.8 million against a $32 million operating budget.

Artistic Director Joseph Haj said, “While the Guthrie is faring well in relative terms, we are not immune to the challenges our industry faces in the wake of the pandemic. Though reporting a deficit is sobering, I remain optimistic about the Guthrie’s future, and I am confident we will continue to fulfill our mission, vision and core values.” He added, “We also have much to celebrate. In our first full season back onstage since 2019, we wanted the lineup to reflect the level of artistic excellence our community has come to expect from the Guthrie throughout the last 60 years. I am deeply grateful to our remarkable staff, board and community who have supported us for six decades, and I’m proud of the work we achieved together that made this milestone season possible.”

Trisha Kirk, who served as Director of Marketing and Communications in FY23 and assumed the role of Managing Director in January 2024, noted, “The Guthrie’s 2022–2023 Season was one of many contrasts. Ticket sales and donor support, though higher than the previous year, didn’t return to pre-pandemic levels. Operational expenses continue to rise, and we face additional expenditure given the size and complexity of our nearly 20-year-old building. Despite a challenging year, I’m optimistic about our ability to find efficiencies, reduce risk, return to a balanced budget and ensure the long-term health and vitality of the Guthrie.”

Attendance across all performances, education offerings and community engagement programming grew from 162,928 in 2022 to 302,881 in 2023, including 52,011 tickets for children, students and educators. In addition, the Guthrie received vital support from its subscriber base, which reached a total of 13,832 season ticket holders (up from 11,656 the previous season), and financial contributions from more than 5,580 donors, including foundations, corporations and individuals.

The Guthrie’s 60th season featured Qui Nguyen’s *Vietgone*; the world premiere of Pulitzer Prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks’ *Sally & Tom*, presented in association with The Public Theater; the Guthrie’s 48th production of *A Christmas Carol*; Cummins and Scoullar’s *The Little Prince*; Pearl Cleage’s *Blues for an Alabama Sky*; an Alley Theatre production of Liz Duffy Adams’ *Born With Teeth*; William Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*; Agatha Christie’s *Murder on the Orient Express*; Stephen Sondheim’s *Into the Woods*; and the world premiere of Karen Zacarias’ *Shane*, a co-production with Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

Notable events during the FY23 included a free 60th anniversary open house on May 7, 2023, when the theater welcomed thousands of guests for a day of festivities for all ages, and Diamond Jubilee, a fundraising gala featuring a concert by Broadway star and Guthrie alum Santino Fontana and an appearance by former Guthrie Artistic Director Joe Dowling, who received the inaugural Tyrone Guthrie Distinguished Artist Award.
Of the 52,011 tickets issued to children, students and educators in FY23, the Guthrie welcomed over 20,000 youth through its student matinee program, which included a pre-show experience hosted by the Guthrie Education Team. In addition, a performance of Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, directed by Joseph Haj, was filmed and distributed with an accompanying curriculum guide at no cost to Minnesota educators and classrooms for use during the 2024–2025 school year.

The theater’s Native Advisory Council, a group of seven Minnesota-based Native artists, continued to meet monthly and advise the Guthrie on a variety of projects and initiatives. Most notably, the NAC had a significant impact on the development of the Guthrie-commissioned play *For the People* by Ty Defoe (Citizen of Anishinaabe and Oneida Nations) and Larissa FastHorse (Sicangu Lakota Nation), which had its world premiere on the Guthrie stage in October 2023 and was created in partnership with members of the Twin Cities Indigenous community. In addition, the Guthrie Store continued to sell “You Are On Native Land” merchandise, a collection of thoughtfully designed items by Adrienne Zimiga-January (Citizen of the Oglala Lakota Nation), with all proceeds supporting the Ikidowin Youth Theater Ensemble and Minneapolis American Indian Center.

**Land Acknowledgment**

The Guthrie Theater acknowledges that it resides on the traditional land of the Dakota People and honors with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations, including the Ojibwe and other Indigenous nations.

The **GUTHRIE THEATER** (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) is an American center for theater performance in Minneapolis, Minnesota, dedicated to producing a mix of classic and contemporary plays and cultivating the next generation of theater artists. Under Haj’s leadership, the Guthrie is guided by four core values: Artistic Excellence; Community; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility; and Fiscal Responsibility. Since its founding in 1963, the theater has continued to set a national standard for excellence in the field and serve the people of Minnesota as a vital cultural resource. The Guthrie houses three state-of-the-art stages, production facilities, classrooms and dramatic public spaces. [guthrietheater.org](http://guthrietheater.org)

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**PHOTO: MARK VANCLEAVE**

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