GOODMAN THEATRE’S SCENEMAKERS BOARD HOSTS JULY 29 SCENE SOIRÉE FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

***SUMMER IN THE CITY*** EVENT CELEBRATES CHICAGO’S DIVERSE NEIGHBORHOODS***

(Chicago, IL) Goodman Theatre’s Scenemakers Board invites guests to raise a glass to the Windy City at the 5th annual Scene Soirée summer fundraiser. Celebrating the best of Chicago’s diverse neighborhoods, the event will take place on Friday, July 29 at Ovation (2324 W. Fulton) beginning at 8pm; dress code is summer cocktail attire. Guests will enjoy performances by YouTube beatboxing sensation Yuri Lane, hit the dance floor, sample local craft beer and nosh on Chicago-inspired foods. Attendees can also bid on exclusive auction experiences highlighting some of the city’s most unique areas. Elliot From of Artbeat Live will create and auction an original painting during the event. The Scene Soirée raises funds for the Goodman’s long-running summer education program for youth, PlayBuild Youth Intensive. Tickets are $85 through June 30 and $95 in July. For tickets, visit: GoodmanTheatre.org/SceneSoiree.

This year’s Scene Soirée is helmed by Special Events Committee Co-Chairs Elizabeth M. Balthrop, Heather M. Grove and Megan A. McCarthy. Scenemakers Board members advocate for the Goodman through audience development and fundraising initiatives. Members play a role in funding and supporting diverse new work and education programs while experiencing theater from the inside out. The Scenemakers Board is led by President Gordon C.C. Liao (Modjule LLC), Vice President Jason Knupp (Fleet TLC), Treasurer Justin A. Kulovsek (Nesek Digital) and Secretary Kelli Garcia (Non-Profit Consultant).

Proceeds from the Soirée support the summer youth program, PlayBuild Youth Intensive. More than 700 students have participated in PlayBuild since its 2007 inception; approximately 79% of participants attend public schools, with 51% enrolled in Chicago Public Schools. The comprehensive seven-week intensive is designed to further critical thinking, literacy and storytelling skills in 14 to 18 year-old students. Led by Walter Director of Education and Community Engagement Willa J. Taylor in collaboration with Goodman Theatre teaching artists, PlayBuild introduces participants to theater using ensemble building, object work and writing exercises.

About Goodman Theatre

Called America’s “Best Regional Theatre” by Time magazine, Goodman Theatre has won international recognition for its artists, productions and programs, and is a major cultural, educational and economic pillar in Chicago. Founded in 1925 by William O. Goodman and his family in honor of their son Kenneth (an important figure in Chicago’s cultural renaissance in the early 1900s), Goodman Theatre has garnered hundreds of awards for artistic achievement and community engagement, including two Pulitzer Prizes, 22 Tony Awards (including “Outstanding Regional Theatre” in 1992), nearly 160 Joseph Jefferson Awards and more. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Robert Falls and Executive Director Roche Schulfer, the Goodman’s artistic priorities include new plays (more than 150 world or American premieres in the past 30 years), reimagined classics (including Falls’ nationally and internationally celebrated productions of Death of a Salesman, Long Day’s Journey into Night, King Lear and The Iceman Cometh, many in collaboration with actor Brian Dennehy), culturally specific work, musical theater (26 major productions in 20 years, including 10 world premieres) and international collaborations. Diversity and inclusion have been primary cornerstones of the Goodman’s mission for 30 years; over the past decade, 68% of the Goodman’s 35 world premieres were authored by women and/or playwrights of color, and the Goodman was the first theater in the world to produce all 10 plays in August Wilson’s “American Century Cycle.” Each year, the Goodman’s numerous education and community engagement programs—including the innovative Student Subscription Series, now in its 30th year—serve thousands of students, teachers, life-long learners and special constituencies. In addition, for nearly four decades the annual holiday tradition of A Christmas Carol has led to the creation of a new generation of theatergoers in Chicago.

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Goodman Theatre’s leadership includes the distinguished members of the Artistic Collective: Brian Dennehy, Rebecca Gilman, Henry Godinez, Dael Orlandersmith, Steve Scott, Chuck Smith, Regina Taylor, Henry Wishcamper and Mary Zimmerman. Joan Clifford is Chair of Goodman Theatre’s Board of Trustees, Swati Mehta is Women’s Board President and Gordon C.C. Liao is President of the Scenemakers Board for young professionals.

Visit the Goodman virtually at GoodmanTheatre.org, and on Twitter (@GoodmanTheatre), Facebook and Instagram.

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