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**GOODMAN THEATRE MOURNS THE PASSING OF TWO-TIME TONY AWARD WINNER FRANK GALATI,**

**CELEBRATED ACTOR, DIRECTOR, PLAYWRIGHT AND EDUCATOR, WHOSE CAREER SPANNED MORE THAN 50 YEARS**

(Chicago, IL) A ground-breaking theatrical innovator, **Frank Galati** (1943 – 2023) has been called “a great invigorator—a man who makes you want to write” by Broadway composer John Kander. Goodman Theatre mourns the passing of former Associate Director Galati, whose celebrated five-decade Chicago theater career includes 12 Goodman productions. Though his fame had reached global proportions by the time of his death, Galati was at heart a Chicago artist, embracing both the “can-do” spirit of the city and the unadorned honesty that are hallmarks of his home city. His imaginative approach to storytelling transformed the early years of the Chicago theater movement via legendary productions at such companies as Wisdom Bridge and Northlight. His almost 50-year association with the Goodman (where he first worked in 1974 and later became associate artistic director) and Steppenwolf Theatre (where he was an early ensemble member) brought his talents to a larger canvas.

“Like so many in this field, Frank looms large as an educator, influencer and inspiration for me. And while his artistry was constantly astonishing and mind blowing, it was the exuberant joy he brought to every process, every classroom, every interaction that imprinted most deeply,” said Goodman Theatre Artistic Director **Susan Booth**, who is also a former student of Galati’s. “This man, with this protean mind and bottomless skill, would quite deliberately meet each moment with a beginner’s heart. He was present, he was filled with wonder, and he was achingly kind.”

Beginning with his play *Winnebago* at the Goodman’s Stage 2, Galati’s Goodman credits include *The Government Inspector* (1985); *She Always Said, Pablo* (1987), which he adapted from the works of Gertrude Stein; *Passion* *Play* and *A Flea in Her Ear* (adapter/performer) (1988); *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (1989); *The Winter’s Tale* (1990); *The Good Person of Sechuan* (1992) with Cherry Jones; *Cry, The Beloved Country* (1993); *Gertrude Stein: Each One As She May* (1995); the Kander and Ebb, Terrence McNally musical *The Visit*, starring Chita Rivera(2001); and *Oedipus Complex* (2007).

"It's difficult to put into words what Frank meant to Chicago theater and the Goodman Theatre,” said former Goodman Artistic Director **Robert Falls**, who had named Galati Associate Director from the beginning of his tenure in 1986 through 2006. “His artistry, his passion, and his genius for telling stories on stage was the work of a true visionary. No Chicago theater artist was more revered and loved, and he will be missed and celebrated for his passion and his brilliance."

Added Manilow Director **Mary Zimmerman**, “Without Frank, my life would bear no resemblance to what it has been, and that may be true for a great many of us. I met him at age 18, and since then he was my professor, my director, eventually my co-teacher—and the model to me of what an artist and a human being could be. He was the greatest reader of text, performance and people I’ve ever known. His work was in equal parts an act of devotion and liberation. In his later years, especially, his work had a wild freedom to it: experimental, profound.”

Galati earned two Tony Awards—for his adaptation and direction of Steppenwolf Theatre Company’s production of *The Grapes of Wrath* on Broadway, and was nominated for a Tony for directing the musical *Ragtime—*a 1989 Academy Award nomination for his screenplay *The Accidental Tourist* with Lawrence Kasdan, and nine Joseph Jefferson Awards for his work in Chicago theater: one for acting, five for directing and three for writing. On Broadway, he directed Julie Harris and Calista Flockhart in *The Glass Menagerie*. Opera directing credits include *La Traviata, Tosca, Pelléas et Mélisande*, and *Voyage of Edgar Allen Poe* at Lyric Opera and Bolcom’s *A View from the Bridge* at Lyric and The Metropolitan Opera. He adapted and directed *Loving Repeating: a Musical of Gertrude Stein*, with a score by Stephen Flaherty, produced by About Face Theatre and the Museum of Contemporary Art. In 2001, he was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences—and in 2022, inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame. He was a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Performance Studies at Northwestern University.

**ABOUT GOODMAN THEATRE**

Chicago’s theater since 1925, Goodman Theatre is a not-for-profit arts and community organization in the heart of the Loop, distinguished by the excellence and scope of its artistic programming and community engagement. The theater’s artistic priorities include new play development (more than 150 world or American premieres), large scale musical theater works and reimagined classics. Artists and productions have earner two Pulitzer Prizes, 22 Tony Awards and more than 160 Jeff Awards, among other accolades. The Goodman is the first theater in the world to produce all 10 plays in August Wilson’s “American Century Cycle.” Its longtime annual holiday tradition *A Christmas Carol*, now in its fifth decade, has created a new generation of theatergoers in Chicago. The Goodman also frequently serves as a production and program partner with national and international companies and Chicago’s Off-Loop theaters.

Using the tools of the theatrical profession, the Goodman’s Education and Engagement programs aim to develop generations of citizens who understand the cultures and stories of diverse voices. The Goodman’s Alice Rapoport Center for Education and Engagement is the home of these programs, which are offered free of charge for Chicago youth—85% of whom come from underserved communities—schools and life-long learners.

As a cultural and community organization invested in quality, diversity and community, Goodman Theatre is committed to using the art of theater for a better Chicago. Goodman Theatre’s [Action Plan for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Racism and Access (IDEAA)](https://www.goodmantheatre.org/Accountability) was born out of the belief that progress means action, which includes building on the decades-long commitment to using art, assets and resources to contribute to a more just, equitable and anti-racist society.

Goodman Theatre was founded 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. The Goodman family’s legacy lives on through the continued work and dedication of Kenneth’s family, including Albert Ivar Goodman, who with his late mother, Edith-Marie Appleton, contributed the necessary funds for the creation on the new Goodman center in 2000.

Today, Goodman Theatre is led by Artistic Director **Susan V. Booth** and Executive Director/CEO **Roche Schulfer**. Theater leadership also includes the distinguished members of the Artistic Collective: **Rebecca Gilman**, **Dael Orlandersmith**, **Henry Godinez**, **Steve Scott**, **Kimberly Senior**, **Chuck Smith** and **Mary Zimmerman**. **Jeff Hesse** is Chairman of Goodman Theatre’s Board of Trustees, **Fran Del Boca** is Women’s Board President and **Craig McCaw** is President of the Scenemakers Board for young professionals.

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