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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 8, 2019

THE DULUTH PLAYHOUSE OPENS NEW SEASON WITH *SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE*

A toe-tappin', finger-snappin' good time

Duluth, Minn. --- The Duluth Playhouse is proud to present Leiber and Stoller's hit musical revue, *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, at the NorShor Theatre beginning September 19 through September 29, 2019. This production is directed by returning guest director, Michael Matthew Ferrell.

"This music is some of the best of all time, and I have had this idea to reimagine it," said Ferrell when asked about his vision for the show. "I am taking a fresh approach to the show, including adding dancers, to help bring these great songs to life. If you love the music of Leiber & Stoller, you have to see it come to life."

Smokey Joe's Cafe is a rock & roll, rhythm, and blues revue featuring all the best hits of Leiber and Stoller. This powerhouse musical will showcase 30 songs, including songs made famous by the like of The Coasters, Elvis Presley, and The Drifters. *Smokey Joe's Cafe* was nominated for seven Tony Awards and was the longest-running musical revue on Broadway.

Unlike a typical musical, *Smokey Joe's Cafe* is classified as a musical revue and is presented in a revue format with a theme rather than a storyline: love. There are novelty songs, romantic ballads, and infectious melodies, and all of them explore loves lost, loves found, and the search for love in between. Each song is sung by members of the cast in various combinations, and there's largely little to no dialogue in between musical numbers.

"Michael Ferrell is the best of the best for musicals with high-energy dancing," said Christine Gradl Seitz, Executive and Artistic Director of the Playhouse. "His imagination and direction are always top-notch, and I can't wait to see what's up his sleeve for this show."

Tickets are on sale now for this blast-to-the-past musical online at www.duluthplayhouse.org, www.norshoretheatre.com, by phone at 218.733.7555, or stopping by the NorShor Theatre Box Office at 211 E. Superior St., in downtown Duluth.

Cast List for *Smokey Joe's Cafe*

- **Jesse Davis**
- **Nicole Elysian**
- **Darren Franco**
- **Brandon A. Jackson***
- **Kiko Laureano**
- **Gabriel Mayfield**
- **Eden Nesburg**
- **Shad Olsen***
- **Daysha LaNae Ramsey**
- **Kayla Schliltgen**
- **Henriette Soderlind**
- **Christina Stroup***
- **Krysti Wiita**

** Indicates member of Actor's Equity Association (AEA)*

Photo attached: *Smokey Joe's Café* promotional graphic

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About the Duluth Playhouse

Rich with a history dating back to 1914, the Duluth Playhouse is one of the country's oldest theatre organizations. Comprised of three stages: the NorShor Theatre, the Playhouse Family Theatre, and The Underground, the Duluth Playhouse produces year-round theatrical and musical performances as well as provide education opportunities of the highest quality for both youth and adults.