

[Tyrone Guthrie](#)

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The Guthrie Theatre of Minneapolis...and the person behind it...

Tyrone Guthrie

Guthrie had long been a distinguished English Director at the Old Vic. A theatre that is reputed around the world for its intense classical theatre style. He first came to America in 1936 to direct *Call It A Day*. Moving back and forth between continents, teaching and directing, he was well known in New York for his productions of *The Matchmaker* (1955), *Candide* (1956) and a famous revival of *Dinner at Eight* (1966)

Guthrie is considered to have made (at the least) two very identifiable contributions to American theatre. First of all, he brought an understanding of Shakespeare, Elizabethan, and classic plays to American Theatre. He was well known for his pacing and tension which he brought to contemporary productions as well. He also of course, formed the now famous **Guthrie Theatre** in Minneapolis in 1963.

The idea behind this theatre was to form a permanent repertory company away from New York. Hence, Minnesota.

The Theatre opened in 1963 with a production of Hamlet. From then on, Guthrie would direct successful productions of *The Three Sisters*, *Henry V*, *Valpone* and *Richard the III*. After his death in 1971 the season there expanded, the company toured and a smaller theatre dedicated to presenting experimental works was formed.

Guthrie came to America with a passion for theatre. Shared it and literally built a Theatre which serves as a rolemodel for those to come. Both, in its design and aesthetic.

The **Guthrie Theatre** in Minneapolis remains one of the most distinguished Repertory Theatres left in existence in America.