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DIVE INTO THE HORNETS' NEST AT GEVA THEATRE CENTER

Geva's nationally recognized program of thought-provoking theatre continues with *A Measure of Cruelty* by Joe Calarco on Monday, March 28.

Rochester, N.Y., March 23, 2016 - Few experiences can ignite a great conversation like a thrilling night in the theatre. **The Hornets' Nest** series has theatre-goers itching for that conversation.

The Hornets' Nest series of script-in-hand readings with professional actors and directors returns with three plays investigating the most challenging and controversial ethical dilemmas of our time. Following each reading, audience members will have the opportunity to engage in open discussion with key figures from the Rochester community. Since its inception in 2007, the Hornets' Nest series of readings has become nationally recognized and lauded as one of the most innovative theatrical initiatives in the country.

The 2015-2016 series continues on **March 28** with ***A Measure of Cruelty* by Joe Calarco**. After suffering injuries in the Iraq war, Buddy returns to his small-town Florida home where he struggles maintain peace with his father while keeping up the family bar. When the local community is rocked by a heinous crime, they are forced to face the dark realities of a society that equates manhood with violence. How do we combat the idea that becoming a "man" involves overt displays of dominance, strength and pride? Is there a way to end teenage bullying? How does our constant state of war reshape how we think about human cruelty?

Rochester native Joe Calarco's Off-Broadway credits include *Floyd and Clea Under the Western Sky* at Playwrights Horizons; *Boy* and *In Transit* (Drama Desk Nomination) at Primary Stages; *in the absence of spring* (writer/director) at Second Stage; *Sarah, Plain and Tall* at The Lucille Lortel; *The Audience* (contributing book writer) and *Bury the Dead* at The Transport Group; *Fugitive Songs* (Drama Desk nomination) at Dreamlight Theatre Company and Shakespeare's *R&J* (adaptor/director, Lucille Lortel Award). He directed the national tour of *Ring of Fire*, and regionally his credits include *Lincolnesque* (world premiere) and *The Glass Menagerie* at The Old Globe; *Assassins* (Helen Hayes Award), *Urinetown* (Helen Hayes Award), *Side Show* (Helen

Hayes Award), *Nijinsky's Last Dance* (Helen Hayes Award), *Gypsy*, *God of Carnage*, the world premieres of *Nest* and *The Boy Detective Fails* and his own plays *In The Absence of Spring* and *Walter Cronkite is Dead* at Signature Theatre; *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* (book writer/director) and *The Burnt Part Boys* at Barrington Stage Company; *The Last Five Years* (Barrymore Award Best Musical), *Elegies* (Barrymore nomination), *M. Butterfly* and *The Light in the Piazza* (Barrymore Award) at Philadelphia Theatre Co.; *Ordinary Days* (Barrymore Award) at 11th Hour Theatre Company. As a writer his published works include *Shakespeare's R&J*, *In the Absence of Spring*, and *Walter Cronkite is Dead*. He is a Drama League Directing Fellow and Co-Artistic Director of Breaking Bread Theatre. He is a graduate of Ithaca College.

The cast of the reading includes **Jamal Abdunasir** and **K. Cody Hunt** and is **directed by Gregg Wiggins**. Following the reading of *A Measure of Cruelty*, audience members will have the opportunity to discuss the questions that the play poses with a panel of members of the community brought together specifically for this event:

The play reading is at 7:00pm in the Fielding Stage. Tickets are free and, due to the popularity of this series, are limited to two per person. Reservations are recommended. Due to anticipated demand, all unclaimed tickets will be released at 6:45pm on the day of performance. Patron discretion is advised: *A Measure of Cruelty* deals with adult subject matter. To reserve tickets phone the Box Office: (585) 232-Geva (4382) or reserve online at www.gevatheatre.org.

Leadership support for the Hornet's Nest is provided by The Gouvernet Arts Fund at The Community Foundation, The Mary S. Mulligan Charitable Trust, Jack and Barbara Kraushaar, and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

GEVA THEATRE CENTER

Founded in 1972, Geva Theatre Center is a not-for-profit, professional theatre company dedicated to creating and producing professional theatre productions, programs and services of a national standard. As Rochester's leading professional theatre, Geva Theatre Center is the most attended regional theatre in New York State, and one of the 25 most subscribed in the country, serving up to 160,000 patrons annually, including more than 16,000 students.

The 526-seat Elaine P. Wilson Mainstage is home to a wide variety of performances, from musicals to American and world classics. The 180-seat Ron & Donna Fielding Nextstage is home to Geva's own series of contemporary drama, comedy and musical theatre; Geva Comedy Improv; Geva's New Play Reading Series and the Hornets' Nest - an innovative play-reading series facilitating community-wide discussion on controversial topics. In addition, the Nextstage hosts visiting companies of both local and international renown.

Geva Theatre Center offers a wide variety of educational, outreach and literary programs, nurturing audiences and artists alike. Since 1995, the organization has been under the artistic direction of Mark Cuddy.

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