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## ***FAILURE IS IMPOSSIBLE: THE ONGOING LEGACY OF SUSAN B. ANTHONY AND FREDERICK DOUGLASS***

**Reading of Anthony and Douglass Speeches in the Fielding Stage  
on May 23**

**Rochester, N.Y., May 10, 2016** - Two of the country's most powerful orators and advocates for social justice lived in Rochester, and we are justifiably proud of our community's role in the Civil Rights and Suffrage movements.

In anticipation of an upcoming new play commissioned from playwright **Mat Smart** (author of Geva's 2014 production *Tinker to Evers to Chance*) about the friendship between Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass, Geva will present a reading of some of their most rousing speeches and writings. Are the legacies of Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony still relevant in Rochester today? How do their speeches resonate with contemporary ideas about activism and current political rhetoric?

Kathryn Meisle, currently appearing on the Wilson Stage in *The May Queen* will be reading excerpts from the speeches of Susan B. Anthony and Peter J. Fernandez will be reading those of Frederick Douglass. Following the reading, there will be an open conversation with the audience and playwright Mat Smart.

**The event is at 7:00pm in the Fielding Stage.** Tickets are free but reservations are recommended. To reserve tickets phone the Box Office: (585) 232-Geva (4382) or reserve online at [www.gevatheatre.org](http://www.gevatheatre.org).

Support for this project is provided by the New York Council on the Humanities. Geva's New Play Programs and the Fielding Stage are underwritten by The Gouvernet Arts Fund at The Community Foundation, The Mary S. Mulligan Charitable Trust, 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 Stage is home to a wide variety of performances, from musicals to American and world classics. The 180-seat Ron & Donna Fielding Stage 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 Fielding Stage 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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