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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GEVA THEATRE CENTER NAMES NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Brent Murrill brings record of fundraising success and passion for the arts.

Rochester, NY. June 2, 2016 – Executive Director Christopher Mannelli and Artistic Director Mark Cuddy have announced that **Brent Murrill** will be Geva Theatre Center’s new Director of Development as it enters its 44th Season. The Director of Development is a member of the senior leadership team and is directly responsible for planning, leading and growing the organization’s fundraising efforts, including a growing Annual Fund. Ticket sales alone do not support the cost of Geva’s productions, programs and services, and therefore, as a not-for-profit theatre, Geva must raise approximately \$2 million annually in charitable support from individuals, businesses, foundations and government agencies.

Brent Murrill has spent a successful career in the not-for-profit world as a leader in the fundraising community. He has spent the last 18 months in Houston, where he led disaster fundraising efforts as the Senior Major Gifts Officer for the Texas Gulf Coast Region of the American Red Cross, and was part of the team that was instrumental in helping to secure gifts in the aftermaths of two devastating and historic floods that wreaked havoc on the Bayou City. Prior to joining the Red Cross, Mr. Murrill served as Regional Resource Development Director for The Salvation Army of Alabama and Mississippi. Helping to spearhead successful capital campaigns, he was the leading fundraiser for The Salvation Army’s Southeastern Territory. He has also spent time working with the Feeding America network of Food Banks throughout Alabama as well as working with strategic policy efforts concerning Supplemental Nutrition Assistance for low-income families through an initiative with AARP. Mr. Murrill is thrilled to finally be able to return to the arts. An accomplished actor and director, he has served as Managing Director of the Mobile Shakespeare Company, and was the Founding Artistic Director of the Mobile Carnival Theatre Company.

“We could not be happier to have Brent join our team at Geva Theatre Center,” says **Executive Director Christopher Mannelli**. “His incredible history of success in the fundraising field and his passion for the performing arts are the perfect combination for our institution.”

Mr. Murrill begins his new position on Monday, June 6 and joins the Development Team of Events Manager Scott Falkowski, Institutional Support Coordinator Nicole Milano and Development Associate Emily Hotaling.

**For further information, or to arrange an interview with Mr. Murrill, please contact:
Dawn Kellogg, Communications Manager, (585) 420-2059**

Attached Photo: Brent Murrill

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 Hornet's 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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