



Media Contact: Dawn Kellogg
Communications Manager
(585) 420-2059
dkellogg@gevatheatre.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE 2016-2017 FIELDING STUDIO SERIES CONTINUES WITH ***THE LAKE EFFECT***

Rochester, N.Y., January 6, 2017 – Geva Theatre Center presents *The Lake Effect*, Rajiv Joseph’s play about family, friendship and food. *The Lake Effect* will be performed in the Fielding Stage from **February 2 to February 19**.

During a fierce winter storm, estranged siblings reunite in their family’s restaurant amid pungent memories of tandoors and tikka masala. When a regular customer claims to know more of their family history than they do, Vijay and Priya are forced to consider the future of the business. Pulitzer Prize-finalist Rajiv Joseph serves up a spicy menu of family secrets, sibling rivalry and unlikely friendship.

Rajiv Joseph’s Broadway play, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, was a 2010 Pulitzer Prize finalist for drama, and also awarded a grant for Outstanding New American Play by the National Endowment for the Arts. Mr. Joseph’s New York productions include *Guards at the Taj* (Atlantic Theater Company, 2015) which was awarded the 2016 Obie Award for Best New Play and the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play, *The North Pool* (Vineyard Theater, 2013), *Gruesome Playground Injuries* (Second Stage Theatre, 2011), *Animals Out of Paper* (Second Stage Theatre, 2008), *The Leopard and the Fox* (Alter Ego, 2007), *Huck & Holden* (Cherry Lane Theatre, 2006), and *All This Intimacy* (Second Stage Theatre, 2006). Other recent plays include *Mr. Wolf* (South Coast Repertory, 2015), *The Lake Effect* (Crossroads Theatre in New Jersey, 2013) and *Monster at the Door* (Alley Theatre in Houston, 2011). Mr. Joseph wrote for the Showtime series “Nurse Jackie” for seasons 3 and 4 and was the co-screenwriter of the film *Draft Day*, starring Kevin Costner and Jennifer Garner. He is the book-writer and co-lyricist for the musical, *Fly*, which premiered at the Dallas Theater Center in 2013. Jack Perla and Mr. Joseph’s opera, *Shalimar the Clown*, adapted from the novel by Salman Rushdie, recently had its highly anticipated world premiere at the Opera Theatre of St. Louis. *The Wall Street Journal* called Joseph’s libretto “a remarkably succinct and faithful distillation” of Rushdie’s novel. He received his B.A. in Creative Writing from Miami University and his M.F.A. in Dramatic Writing from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. He served for three years in the Peace Corps in Senegal and now lives in Brooklyn.

The Lake Effect premiered at Chicago's Silk Road Rising on April 23, 2013. The production received the Joseph Jefferson Award for Best New Work.

The cast of *The Lake Effect* each make their Geva Theatre Center debuts. Neimah Djourabchi’s NYC stage credits include *Trilogy: Sovereign* at the Judson Theatre; *Kill Shakespeare* at HeRe Arts; *Jesus in India* at Ma-Yi;

The Inexplicable Redemption of Agent G at Vampire Cowboys and Ma-Yi Theatres; *Thieves* at the Public Theatre; *Action Philosophers* and *Hack!*; *12th Night of the Living Dead* at Impetuous and *Open Door* and *Hamlet* at La Mama and Etc Theatres. He has appeared on film and TV in *Imitation Girl* (Ilium), “Blacklist” (NBC), “Madame Secretary” (CBS), “Gotham” (Fox), “AKA Jessica Jones” (Netflix) and “Odyssey” (NBC). **Clinton C. Lowe’s** New York stage credits include *The Block* at The Working Theatre, *To Protect the Poets* at Manhattan Theatre Club, the Broadway workshop of *Holler if Ya Hear Me!*, *Romeo and Juliet* for TheatreWorks USA, *Savannah Black & Blue* for the Negro Ensemble Company and *Broken Fences* at Theatre 54. Regional credits include *Youth Ink!* and *At Rise* at the McCarter Theatre. Film and TV credits include *Time Out of Mind*, *American Gangster*, *Chapter and Verse* with 50 Cent, “The Hustle,” “Law & Order,” “Blue Bloods,” among others. **Lipica Shah’s** New York theatre credits include *Bunty Berman Presents...* for The New Group, *Coping* at the NY Fringe Festival), *Rachel: The Musical* for The Wild Project (Fruitie Award Outstanding Featured Performance) and *Lonely Leela* (HERE Arts). Regional credits include *Orange*, *Passing Strange*, and the *Displaced Hindu Gods Trilogy* – title roles in *The Chronicles of Kalki* and *Shiv* (all at Mixed Blood Theatre), *The Who and The What* (Gulfshore Playhouse) and *Dov and Ali* (Chester Theatre). Her film credits include *Admission*; *Arbitrage* and *Let’s Be Out, the Sun is Shining* (NYIFF Best Actress Nomination) and television includes “Limitless,” “The Following,” “Person of Interest,” “White Collar,” “Pokémon,” the Nickelodeon cartoon “Regal Academy” and upcoming TV series “Time After Time.”

This production of *The Lake Effect* is directed by **Pirronne Yousefzadeh** and features scenic design by **David Arsenault**, costume design by **Amanda Doherty**, lighting design by **Seth Reiser** and sound design by **Daniel Perelstein**.

The 2016 Fielding Studio Series is supported in part by the Gouvernet Arts Fund at The Community Foundation and 100.5 The Drive.

***The Lake Effect* begins previews on February 2, opens February 4 and runs through February 19.**

**For further information, photographs or to arrange interviews, please contact:
Dawn Kellogg, Communications Manager, (585) 420-2059.**

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Preview: Thursday, February 2 @ 7pm
Friday, February 3 @ 7pm
Saturday, February 4 @ 2:30pm (Open captioned)

Opening: Saturday, February 4 @ 7:30pm

Performances: Sunday, February 5 @ 3pm
Tuesday, February 7 @ 7pm
Wednesday, February 8 @ 7pm
Thursday, February 9 @ 7pm
Friday, February 10 @ 7pm
Saturday, February 11 @ 2:30pm and 7:30pm
Sunday, February 12 @ 3pm

Wednesday, February 15 @ 7pm
Thursday, February 16 @ 7pm
Friday, February 17 @ 7pm
Saturday, February 18 @ 2:30pm and 7:30pm
Sunday, February 19 @ 3pm

Ticket Prices: Tickets start at \$35.

Reservations: (585) 232-GEVA (4382), Website: www.gevatheatre.org

Location: Geva Theatre Center, 75 Woodbury Blvd, Rochester, NY 14607

* Partial support for open captioning provided by Theatre Development Fund.

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 522-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.