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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Geva Hosts Regional Writers Showcase

Rochester, N.Y. April 6, 2017 - Geva Theatre Center will host two exciting evenings of new work by area playwrights. The 22nd annual **Regional Writers Showcase** will take place at 7pm on **April 17 and April 24**. The script-in-hand performances will take place in the Fielding Stage at Geva Theatre Center. After each reading, there will be a discussion with the playwrights, director and audience.

The **Regional Writers Showcase**, a collaboration between Geva and Writers & Books, gives area playwrights the opportunity to bring their works to local audiences, showcased by professional actors, directors and dramaturgs. The featured scripts were selected from over 50 plays that were submitted after a call for work.

Monday, April 17, 7:00pm

Alexandria by Jeffery W. Jones, Directed by Jean Gordon Ryon

A devoted nun works sequestered in an underground cave, cataloguing an endless stack of books no longer permitted by the government aboveground. One Christmas Eve, she's inexplicably joined by a young woman to aid her labor. In a world full of unspoken secrets, we wonder: How did they come to spend their days here? What's so special about these books? And will each woman find her own salvation?

Monday, April 24, 7:00pm

Gods & Thieves by René Solivan, Directed by Jean Gordon Ryon

Julia is a 50-year-old administrative assistant in Hollywood who never made full use of her intellectual abilities. Her high-achieving sister and D1 university basketball coach, Robin, asks Julia to "help" her star player with his homework for a hefty fee. In this darkly comedic ethical quandary, Julia's response to her sister's fraud may have lasting effects she never could have anticipated.

Tickets are free but must be reserved in advance.

Visit GevaTheatre.org or call 232-Geva (4382) to reserve tickets.

This program is made possible with support from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the Mary S. Mulligan Charitable Trust.

**For further information, please contact:
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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.

THE PLAYWRIGHTS

JEFFERY W. JONES (*Alexandria*): A self-described occasional playwright, Jeffery W. Jones' work has been produced by The Bridge Theatre Company, Boston, and MCC's Sixth Act. Several of Jeff's short plays have received readings sponsored by Geva and Writers and Books, including *Home Work*, *Anniversary*, *For All Time*, *The Importance of Being...*, and *Lost Things*. Jeff can also occasionally be seen on stage where he has played Iago, Richard III, Malvolio, and Henry IV for the Shakespeare Players on whose steering committee he currently serves. Jeff is grateful to Maria Brandt for helping him carve out time to start writing *Alexandria*, to Chris Perri for encouraging him to keep working on it, and to Jean Ryon for receiving the script with such enthusiasm. Most of all, Jeff would like to thank his son William--the best writing partner a person could wish for.

RENÉ SOLIVAN (*Gods and Thieves*) is the winner of the MetLife National Playwriting Award. For his play *Miss Lebron and Her Escorts*, René received an Emerging Artist Commission from the Mark Taper Forum (1977 Tony Award Winner, Outstanding Regional Theatre) where he was also awarded a playwriting fellowship. The Taper produced a workshop of *Miss Lebron*, which was then developed at Off-Broadway's Obie award-winning Spanish Repertory starring NCIS star Cote de Pablo in the title role. René was nominated by Seattle Repertory Theatre (1990 Tony Award Winner, Outstanding Regional Theatre) for the Mentor Project at the Cherry Lane Theatre in NYC. Other plays: *The Pill* (Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center); *Soledad, CA* (Playwrights Circle); *Maskaray* (WIT); *Madre* had its world premiere at Theatre/Theater in Hollywood where the Los Angeles Times hailed it as "an absorbing, compelling tour-de-force by playwright René Solivan." René's short stories have been published in *The Saint Ann's Review*, *Black Denim*, *Northridge Review*, *Stumble Magazine*, *River Poets Journal*, and *Mosaic*, among others. He is the winner of a Northridge Review Fiction Award.

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