



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GEVA THEATRE CENTER HOSTS YOUNG WRITERS SHOWCASE

Rochester, N.Y., April 25, 2017 - Geva Theatre Center hosts the **Young Writers Showcase** on **Saturday, May 6 at 3:30pm** with script-in-hand readings taking place in the Fielding Stage. The Young Writers Showcase gives young area playwrights the opportunity to have their works read by actors with the help of Geva directors and dramaturgs.

An invitation was extended in December soliciting work by writers between the ages of 13 and 18, now living or having lived within the six-county area: Monroe, Livingston, Wayne, Ontario, Genesee and Orleans. Six plays were chosen to participate in this year's showcase.

The selected young playwrights include **Campbell McDade Clay** (Brighton High School), **Maggie Hurley** (Bishop Kearney), **Blake Lombardo** (Wayne Central High School), **Alaina Messineo** (Webster Schroeder High School), **Brennan Saur** (Victor High School) and **Isabella Watts** (SOTA).

Young Writers Showcase

Saturday, May 6, 3:30pm

I Knew Him by Campbell McDade Clay

Anxiety by Maggie Hurley

Pure Imagination by Blake Lombardo

Bad Beans by Alaina Messineo

Break-Up Song by Brennan Saur

The Science of Acceptance by Isabella Watts

Tickets for the Young Writers Showcase are free, but must be reserved in advance.

Call the Geva Box Office at (585) 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; The Dramatists Guild Fund; and the Mary S. Mulligan Charitable Trust.

**For further information or interviews, 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

CAMPBELL McDADE CLAY (*I Knew Him*) is a senior at Brighton High School. She is an active participant in the drama, choral and theater programs at school. Campbell loves writing, singing and acting. She plans on studying musical theatre next year.

MAGGIE HURLEY (*Anxiety*) is a junior at Bishop Kearney high school. She enjoys writing, drawing, and painting. She aspires to go to college to become a biologist. She hopes that she can help better the environment and make the world a better place.

BLAKE LOMBARDO (*Pure Imagination*) is a sophomore at Wayne Central High School. He enjoys writing, especially poems. He really loves theatre, and has performed in a total of eleven musicals/plays since sixth grade. He has also worked behind the scenes of some shows as a sound technician. It's been a lifelong dream of his to be a writer. He would like to thank all of his past English teachers who helped to encourage me, and all of my friends for being my support through my writing and my life.

ALAINA MESSINEO (*Bad Beans*) is a senior at Webster Schroeder High School and will attend Marymount Manhattan in the fall for playwriting and drama therapy. She was most recently seen on the Schroeder stage as Miss Andrews in *Mary Poppins* and Penny Pingleton in *Hairspray*. This past winter she wrote and directed comedic sketches for Schroeder's original production of *Friday Night Live*, and is currently co-directing a student run production of *Almost, Maine*. Alaina is a part of the select, show, and a capella choirs at Schroeder, and has performed in the 2016 Fringe Fest Q choir as well as the RPO gala pops. She would like to thank Geva for this amazing opportunity!

BRENNAN SAUR (*Break-Up Song*) is very excited to be returning to the Young Writers Showcase for the third year in a row! In addition to this year's play, his play *Normal Faces* was a part of the 2015 showcase, and he acted in the play *The Wedding Dress* in the 2016 showcase. He is also the author of *The Play*, a full-length play performed at Spotlight Studios for the Performing Arts as a part of last year's Canal Days, and "Sweet & Saur," a night of one-act plays performed at Victor High School in November. When not behind the scenes, he also enjoys performing on the stage - his favorite roles being Scuttle in *The Little Mermaid* and Franz Liebkind in *The Producers*. He is currently a junior at Victor Senior High School and plans to attend college in New York City next year for theatre.

ISABELLA WATTS (*The Science of Acceptance*) is an eleventh grade Creative Writing major at School of the Arts. She has previously been recognized by Scholastic Writing Awards and Sokol High School Literary Awards. She is also on the editorial board for Writers and Books' teen literary magazine, *Canvas*. She is thrilled to be working with Geva and is looking forward to learning more about writing in theatre.

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