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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Geva Theatre Center closes the ESL 2016-2017 Wilson Stage Season with *MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET***

**Rochester, N.Y., May 16, 2017** – Geva Theatre Center closes the 2016-2017 ESL Wilson Stage Season with *Million Dollar Quartet* with book by **Floyd Mutrux** and **Colin Escott**, based on an original concept by **Floyd Mutrux** and inspired by the music of **Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis** and **Carl Perkins**. *Million Dollar Quartet* is directed by **Hunter Foster** and will be performed in the Elaine P. Wilson Stage from **May 30 to June 25**.

**On December 4, 1956, four young musicians got together at Sun Records in Memphis for what would become one of the greatest jam sessions ever. Put on your blue suede shoes and join Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash and Carl Perkins for the recording session of a lifetime. Loaded with classic rock 'n roll hits such as "Great Balls of Fire," "Sixteen Tons," "I Walk the Line," "Hound Dog" and many more.**

Created by film producer, writer and screenwriter Floyd Mutrux, with a book by Mutrux and rock 'n' roll historian Colin Escott, the worldwide phenomenon that is *Million Dollar Quartet* premiered at Florida Seaside Music Theatre in 2006. Following productions at the Village Theatre in Washington State and a limited run at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago, it transferred to Chicago's Apollo Theatre 2008. It celebrated its 2500th performance there in September 2014. The show closed on January 2016 and is ranked as the third-longest running show, in terms of calendar span, in Chicago Theatre history. In 2010 it opened at Broadway's Nederlander Theatre where it ran for over a year and was nominated for three Tony Awards including Best Musical and Best Book of a Musical. The Off-Broadway production opened in 2012 and ran for a year at New World Stages. The West End production of *Million Dollar Quartet* opened in February 2011 and ran at the Noel Coward Theatre for nearly a year. The show has toured the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the UK. "Sun Records," an eight-part TV series based on *Million Dollar Quartet*, aired on CMT/Viacom in February and April of 2017.

Making their Geva Theatre Center debuts in *Million Dollar Quartet* are **Alyssa Gardner** (*Million Dollar Quartet, Cinderella, Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Casa Mañana in Fort Worth) as Dyanne; **Taylor Gray** (National Tour of *Million Dollar Quartet*) as Jerry Lee Lewis; **Dan Leali** (Grammy nominee for his performance on Liquid Soul's album, *Here's the Deal*) as Fluke; **James Ludwig** (Original Broadway cast of *Monty Python's Spamalot* and *Little Shop of Horrors*) as Sam Phillips; **John Michael Presney**

(National Tour of *Million Dollar Quartet* and ABC's "Betrayal") as Carl Perkins; **Trent Rowland** (*Million Dollar Quartet* at Casa Mañana and the feature film *Carol* with Cate Blanchett) as Elvis Presley and **Sky Seals** (*Million Dollar Quartet* at the Segal Centre in Montreal, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, the Actor's Playhouse in Miami and the Westchester Broadway Theatre) as Johnny Cash. **Josh Kerr** returns to Geva as Brother Jay where he has played bass for *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Avenue Q*, *Next to Normal*, *Company*, *The Music Man*, *Five Course Love*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Cabaret*.

**Hunter Foster** makes his directing debut at Geva with *Million Dollar Quartet*. He is an Artistic Associate at the Bucks County Playhouse where he has directed *Company*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *The Buddy Holly Story*, *National Pastime*, *The Rocky Horror Show* (2013, 2014 and 2016), *Summer of '42*, *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Clue on Stage*. Other directing credits include *Cabaret*, *My Fair Lady* (Cape Playhouse), *Grease* (North Carolina Theatre), *Monty Python's Spamalot* (Casa Mañana) and he has directed productions of *Million Dollar Quartet* for the Ogunquit Playhouse, Gateway Playhouse and the Westchester Broadway Theatre. As an actor, Mr. Foster has appeared in Geva productions of *Monty Python's Spamalot* and *Sylvia* and is a Tony Award nominee for his performance in the revival of *Little Shop of Horrors*. Other Broadway credits include Sam Phillips in the original cast of *Million Dollar Quartet*, *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Hands on a Hardbody*, *The Producers*, *Urinetown*, *Les Misérables*, *Footloose* and many more.

The design team includes **Adam Koch** (scenic design), **Amanda Doherty** (costume design), **Kirk Bookman** (lighting design) and **Ian Hildreth** (sound design). Music Director is **John Michael Presney**.

The 2016-2017 Wilson Stage Series is sponsored by **ESL Federal Credit Union**. The Honorary Wilson Stage Series Sponsor is **Dr. Dawn Lipson**. *Million Dollar Quartet* is produced with support from Lead Co-Producer **The Boev Clinic**; Associate Producer **Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP**; Assistant Producer **Gray Locey, CPA, P.C.** and Media Sponsors **News10NBC** and **Legends 102.7**.

## ***Million Dollar Quartet* begins performances May 30 and runs in the Wilson Stage through June 25.**

**For photos, or to arrange interviews, please contact  
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### **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

#### **PREVIEWS:**

Tuesday, May 30 @ 7:30pm

Wednesday, May 31 @ 7:30pm

Thursday, June 1 @ 7:30pm

Friday, June 2 @ 8pm

Saturday, June 3 @ 2pm (Open Captioned Performance)

**OPENING NIGHT: Saturday, June 3 @ 8pm**

**PERFORMANCES:** Sunday, June 4 @ 2pm & 7pm  
Tuesday, June 6 @ 6pm  
Wednesday, June 7 @ 7:30pm  
Thursday, June 8 @ 7:30pm  
Friday, June 9 @ 8pm  
Saturday, June 10 @ 4pm & 8:30pm  
Sunday, June 11 @ 2pm (Sunday Salon) & 7pm  
Tuesday, June 13 @ 7:30pm  
Wednesday, June 14 @ 7:30pm  
Thursday, June 15 @ 7:30pm  
Friday, June 16 @ 8pm  
Saturday, June 17 @ 4pm & 8:30pm  
Sunday, June 18 @ 2pm (Audio Described performance) and 7pm  
Tuesday, June 20 @ 7:30pm  
Wednesday, June 21 @ 2pm & 7:30pm (Opened Captioned Perfs)  
Thursday, June 22 @ 7:30pm (ASL Interpreted Performance)  
Friday, June 23 @ 8pm  
Saturday, June 24 @ 4pm & 8:30pm  
Sunday, June 25 @ 2pm (Sunday Salon)

**TICKET PRICES: Start at \$25**

**RESERVATIONS: (585) 232 GEVA (4382), Website: [www.gevatheatre.org](http://www.gevatheatre.org)**

**LOCATION: Geva Theatre Center, 75 Woodbury Blvd, Rochester, NY 14607**

\*Open captioning is provided with support from Hearing Loss Association of America – Rochester Chapter.

#### **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.

**\*ENDS\***