



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GEVA'S 46TH SEASON BEGINS WITH ***HAIR***

***ESL Federal Credit Union/Rochester Regional Health 2018-2019 Season kicks off
with the original love-rock musical.***

Rochester, N.Y., August 15, 2018 – Geva Theatre Center presents *Hair*, with book and lyrics by **Gerome Ragni** and **James Rado**, music by **Galt MacDermot**, directed by **Melissa Rain Anderson**, with musical direction by **Don Kot**, and choreography by **Liz Ramos** in the Elaine P. Wilson Stage from **September 4 through October 7**.

The original love-rock musical celebrates the Sixties with songs such as “Aquarius;” “Good Morning, Starshine;” and “Let the Sunshine In.” Claude, Berger, and their free-spirited friends balance their bohemian lives with their rebellion against the Vietnam War and The Establishment. It’s the summer of love in all its barefoot, long haired, bell-bottomed, beaded and fringed glory.

Conceived by actors **Gerome Ragni** and **James Rado** (a Rochester native) in 1965, with songs composed by **Galt MacDermot**, *Hair* became the musical that defined a generation. It was chosen by the New York Shakespeare Festival’s Joe Papp as the opening production for the new Public Theater (the theatre that would go on to produce landmark works of theatre such as *A Chorus Line*, *Hamilton*, and *Fun Home*). *Hair* opened on October 17, 1967 at the Public where it ran for a limited engagement of six weeks. In December of that year, Chicago Businessman Michael Butler and Papp moved the show to The Cheetah, a disco at 53rd and Broadway, where it ran for 45 performances. Between its closing at The Cheetah and its Broadway opening at the Biltmore Theatre in April 1968 produced by Michael Butler, *Hair* went through several revisions including the addition of thirteen new songs. Among the cast who appeared in *Hair* during its original Broadway run were Diane Keaton, Melba Moore, Ben Vereen, Keith Carradine and Meat Loaf. The production ran for 1,750 performances and was nominated for two Tony Awards including Best Musical. The London production, which opened in September 1968, ran for nearly 2,000 performances. A 2009 Broadway revival won the Tony and Drama Desk Awards for Best Revival of a Musical.

Making their Geva debuts in *Hair* are **Michael Burrell** (National Tour of *Amazing Grace* and *Meet Me in St. Louis* at MUNY) as Claude; **Joshua Carey** (Off-Broadway production of *The Imbible: A Spirited History of Drinking*) as Woof; **Joe Chisholm** (Off-Broadway's *Afterglow*) as Berger; **Manna Nicholas** (Broadway productions and national tours of *Allegiance* and *The King & I*) as Crissy; **Jamal Shuriah** (NYC's *On Kentucky Ave*) as Hud; **Cherise Thomas** (National tour of *Disenchanted* and Chicago productions of *Hair* and *Dreamgirls*) as Dionne and **Lawson Young** (Broadway production of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*) as Jeanie. Returning to Geva are **Jacob Hoffman** (Geva's 2016 production of *Monty Python's Spamalot*) as Margaret Mead; and **Chiara Trentalange** (Barrington Stage's *The Royal Family of Broadway, Anything Goes* at Goodspeed Opera House) as Sheila, and Ensemble member **Xavier Reyes** (*West Side Story* at Westchester Broadway Theatre and *La Cage aux Folles* at Ivoryton Playhouse) from last year's sell-out production of *In the Heights*. The ensemble features **David André** (NYC workshop of *We Are Here*, and *Ragtime* at Pennsylvania Theatre Festival); **Gabrielle Beckford** (*Crowns* at the McCarter and Long Wharf Theatres); **Katelyn Brooks**; **Kevin Curtis** (national tour of *A Chorus Line* and Off-Broadway's *Invisible Thread*) who also serves as Dance Captain; **Brent Hammes**; **Mary Katharine Harris** (Lincoln Center's *I Create* and *Rosemary and Time* at Paradise Factory Theatre), **Tavia Riveé** (Cirque de Soleil's *Michael Jackson One*, 2nd national tour of *Motown the Musical*), and **Rocky Vega** (*My Lingerie Play* at Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre and *Peer Gynt* at Ma-Yi).

Hair is directed by **Melissa Rain Anderson** (last season's sell out production of *In the Heights*, 2016's opening production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, the 2015 sell-out hit production of *Monty Python's Spamalot* and 2014's *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*) with musical direction by **Don Kot** and choreography by **Liz Ramos**. The creative team includes **Adam Koch** (scenic design), **Kevin Copenhaver** (costume design), **Brian J. Lilienthal** (lighting design), **Danny Erdberg** (sound design), **Bettie O. Rogers** (wig design) and **Jenni Werner** (dramaturg).

The 2018-2019 Season is sponsored by **ESL Federal Credit Union** and **Rochester Regional Health**. The Honorary Season Producer is **Dr. Dawn Lipson**. *Hair* is produced with support from Lead Co-Producer **Flaum Management Company, Inc.**; and Media Sponsors **13WHAM** and **WARM 101.3**.

***Hair* begins previews on September 4, opens September 8 and runs through October 7.**

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

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Previews: Tuesday, September 4 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday, September 5 @ 7:30pm
Thursday, September 6 @ 7:30pm
Friday, September 7 @ 8pm
Saturday, September 8 @ 2pm (Open Captioned Performance*)

Opening: **Saturday, September 8 @ 8pm**

Performances: Sunday, September 9 @ 2pm and 7pm
Tuesday, September 11 @ 6pm
Wednesday, September 12 @ 7:30pm
Thursday, September 13 @ 7:30pm
Friday, September 14 @ 8pm
Saturday, September 15 @ 4pm and 8:30pm
Sunday, September 16 @ 2pm (Sunday Salon) and 7pm
Tuesday, September 18 @ 6pm
Wednesday, September 19 @ 7:30pm
Thursday, September 20 @ 7:30pm
Friday, September 21 @ 8pm
Saturday, September 22 @ 4pm and 8:30pm
Sunday, September 23 @ 2pm (Audio Described performance) and 7pm
Tuesday, September 25 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday, September 26 @ 7:30pm
Thursday, September 27 @ 7:30pm (ASL Interpreted Performance)
Friday, September 28 @ 8pm
Saturday, September 29 @ 4pm and 8:30pm
Sunday, September 30 @ 2 pm (Sunday Salon) and 7pm
Tuesday, October 2 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday, October 3 @ 2pm and 7:30pm (Open Captioned Performances)
Thursday, October 4 @ 7:30pm
Friday, October 5 @ 8pm
Saturday, October 6 @ 4pm and 8:30pm
Sunday, October 7 @ 2pm

Ticket Prices: **Tickets start at \$25.**

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'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.