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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# GEVA THEATRE CENTER'S 2018-2019 FIELDING STUDIO SERIES CONCLUDES WITH *THE ROYALE*

***Marco Ramirez's acclaimed play packs an unforgettable punch.***

Rochester, N.Y., March 26, 2019 – Geva Theatre Center's 2018-2019 Fielding Studio Series concludes with *The Royale*, written by Marco Ramirez. This production comes to Geva from the Kitchen Theatre Company in Ithaca, N.Y., with the original cast and design team and is directed by Pirronne Yousefzadeh. The production begins performances on April 11 and runs in the Fielding Stage through April 28.

**Get your ringside seats for this electrifying drama that packs an unforgettable punch. Boxer Jay "The Sport" Jackson wants to be the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world. But it's 1905, and in racially segregated Jim Crow America his chances are about as good as getting knocked out. From the award-winning writer of "Orange is the New Black" and "Sons of Anarchy."**

Marco Ramirez has had plays produced at Lincoln Center Theater, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (DC), the Humana Festival (Louisville), the Old Globe (San Diego), the Bush Theatre (London), American Theater Company (Chicago), and Center Theatre Group (LA). Honors include the Outer Critics Circle's John Gassner Playwriting Award, Juilliard's Lila Acheson Wallace Playwriting Fellowship, Lincoln Center's Le Comte du Nouy Award, and TCG's Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. A WGA and Emmy Award-nominated TV writer, he is currently an Executive Producer and Showrunner of the high profile reboot of *The Twilight Zone* for CBS All Access alongside Jordan Peele and Simon Kinberg. Previously, he was the showrunner on Marvel's *The Defenders* (Netflix), and was an Executive Producer on Marvel's *Daredevil* (Netflix). Other TV credits include: *Sons of Anarchy* (FX), *Orange is the New Black* (Netflix), *Da Vinci's Demons* (Starz), and *Fear the Walking Dead* (AMC).

*The Royale* premiered at the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Los Angeles in 2013. It ran at the Bush Theatre in London in 2015 and Off-Broadway at the Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater at Lincoln Center in 2016. This production was originally staged at the Kitchen Theatre in Ithaca from March 10 – March 31, 2019. *The Royale* marks the sixth Kitchen Theatre Company production that has appeared in Geva's Fielding Stage.

The cast of *The Royale* make their Geva Theatre Center debuts in this world premiere. Jamal James (National tour of *The Color Purple*, TV's *Gotham*) is Jay; Sean Meehan (CBS's *Elementary*, *Madam Secretary*, *Shades of Blue* and *The Good Wife*) is Max; Rochester native DazMann Still (TV's *Bull* and *The Last O.G.*) comes home to play Fish; Lisa Tharps (Broadway productions of *King Hedley* and *Love's Fire: Fresh Numbers* and TV's *Jessica*

*Jones, Power, Madam Secretary, and Elementary*) is Nina; and **Alexander Thomas** (Toronto productions of *The Royale, Hangman, A Girl Lives Alone* and *The Nails*) is Wynton.

**The Royale** is directed by **Pirronne Yousefzadeh** whose recent productions include the world premiere of Gabriel Jason Dean's *Heartland* at Geva last season and *The Lake Effect* in 2017. She is the Associate Artistic Director and Director of Engagement at Geva Theatre Center and has directed at theatres around the country including The Public/Joe's Pub, New York Theatre Workshop, Ars Nova, Soho Rep, Ma-Yi Theater Company, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville, La Jolla Playhouse, Huntington Theatre Company, Cleveland Play House, Pioneer Theatre Company, and InterAct Theatre Company, among others. The creative team includes **Seth Reiser** (Scenic and Lighting Designer), **Sarafina Bush** (Costume Design), **Chris Lane** (Sound Design), and **Rocio Mendez** (Movement Coordinator).

***The Royale* begins performances on April 11 and runs in the Fielding Stage through April 28.**

The 2018-2019 Season is sponsored by **ESL Federal Credit Union** and **Rochester Regional Health**. The Honorary Season Producer is **Dr. Dawn Lipson**. The Fielding Studio Series is supported in part by the Gouvernet Arts Fund at The Community Foundation. The Associate Producer for *The Royale* is St John's Rochester.

**Attached Photo:** Jamal James and DazMann Still in *The Royale*. Photo by Theresa Mogil.

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

## **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

**Previews:** Thursday, April 11 @ 7pm  
Friday, April 12 @ 7pm  
Saturday, April 13 @ 2:30pm (Open Captioned performance)

**Opening: Saturday, April 13 @ 7:30pm**

**Performances:** Sunday, April 14 @ 3pm  
Tuesday, April 16 @ 7pm  
Wednesday, April 17 @ 7pm  
Thursday, April 18 @ 7pm  
Friday, April 19 @ 7pm  
Saturday, April 20 @ 2:30pm and 7:30pm  
Sunday, April 21 @ 3pm  
Tuesday, April 23 @ 7pm  
Wednesday, April 24 @ 7pm  
Thursday, April 25 @ 7pm  
Friday, April 26 @ 7pm  
Saturday, April 27 @ 2:30pm and 7:30pm  
Sunday, April 28 @ 3pm

**TICKET PRICES:** Tickets start at \$32.

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

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

**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 516-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.

**\*ENDS\***