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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Geva Hosts Regional Writers Showcase

Rochester, N.Y. April 17, 2019 - Geva Theatre Center will host two exciting evenings of new work by area playwrights. The 25th annual **Regional Writers Showcase** will take place at 7pm on **April 29 and May 6**. 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 45 plays that were submitted after a call for work.

Monday, April 29, 7:00pm

Something Else by Maria Brandt, Directed by Jean Gordon Ryon

Something Else is set in the not-too-distant future where A.I.s exist. Rachel wonders if she has caused her A.I.s processor to malfunction by only uploading the memories she wanted to retain. Can she face her painful past in order to move on from her trauma?

Monday, May 6, 7:00pm

Solitude by Carolyn Kourofsky, Directed by Jean Gordon Ryon

Solitude is the story of Edith Bone, a doctor and journalist who is unjustly accused of being a British spy in 1949 Hungary. In solitary confinement for seven years, she must find a way to answer the question how not to despair.

Free Coffee and Donuts by Melinda Gros, Directed by Lindsay Warren Baker

Free Coffee and Donuts follows ChiChi, a homeless gourmand panhandling meals on a subway platform. She runs into a newly employed woman from a shelter, contacts her high school pal's radio call-in show, then meets a pregnant woman who desperately needs a job. All of these women make a case for the dignity of their lives, and challenge ChiChi to find pride in her own.

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 theatre company dedicated to creating and producing professional theatre productions, programs and services of a national standard. As Rochester's flagship professional theatre, Geva 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 20,000 students.

Geva operates two venues – the 516-seat Elaine P. Wilson Stage and the 180-seat Ron & Donna Fielding Stage. As one of the country's leading theatre companies and a member of the national League of Resident Theatres, Geva produces a varied contemporary repertoire from musicals to world premieres celebrating the rich tapestry of our diverse community. The theatre draws upon the talents of some of the country's top actors, directors, designers and writers who are shaping the American Theatre scene.

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.

For more information: GevaTheatre.org

THE PLAYWRIGHTS

MARIA BRANDT's plays have been finalists in NYC, Boston, Buffalo, DC, Reno, and London; read in Los Angeles, Valdez, Fort Lauderdale, and Rochester; produced in Boston, NYC, and Rochester; and published by literary magazines around the country. Her collection *New York Plays* was produced by Out of Pocket Productions and published by Heartland Plays; her play *The Cell* was featured at Geva's 2014 Regional Writers Showcase and Festival of New Theatre; her novella *All the Words* won the Grassic Short Novel Prize and was published by Evening Street Press in 2015; and her play *Swans* was co-produced by Method Machine and Straw Mat Writers at Geva's Fielding Stage this past summer and an all-deaf version will be produced by IGNITE this coming summer. Maria is a founding member of Straw Mat Writers, with whom she co-authored *FourPlay* for the 2014 and *Shitty Lives* for the 2015 First Niagara Rochester Fringe Festivals, and of the Rochester Playwrights Group. She teaches English and Creative Writing at Monroe Community College and lives outside Highland Park with her son Will and their two cats. Maria thanks Geva for its commitment to new work by local playwrights and for this incredible opportunity. She also thanks Will and Keith for helping her do the work.

MELINDA GROS started playwriting recently, after careers in dance and clothing design/manufacture. She is very interested in women's stories, where we both hide and reveal our true selves through actions and words. Her work has been presented in Louisiana, Indiana and Massachusetts, with a performance in California next month. Our personal stories are rarely 'this happened and this happened and then . . .' Our stories are shaped by everything which happened before, and everything – our relationships, our histories, our successes and failures – which continually shapes our lives. Casual racism and sexism, our finances, our mothers, everything as revealed in our stories inform her plays and her characters. We respond, but we also take charge and mold our futures. She is interested in the ways small actions, sometimes planned but often coincidental, mostly kind but sometimes nasty and everywhere between generous and selfish, have repercussions. Her characters are three-dimensional and complicated and she revels in their ownership of their lives. ChiChi in *Free Coffee and Donuts* is one of her favorite characters. A homeless gourmand panhandling food in the subway, she visualizes different scenarios for herself, provided they don't interfere in the routines of her life. In spontaneously assisting another woman, she opens a door to her own future. Melinda graduated from the University of Rochester, as did her husband and children. She has wonderful memories, including the lilac festival and the sparkling lights of downtown Rochester.

CAROLYN KOUROFSKY was named a 2016 fellow in Playwriting/Screenwriting by the New York Foundation for the Arts and has attended the Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive. Her short plays *Survival of the Season* and *Shoplifting 101* have appeared in previous Regional Writers Showcases, and her full-length play *Misdirection* received a developmental reading at Writers & Books. She created the short play *What Happens in Vegas* as part of the Rochester Fringe Festival/Writers & Books 24-Hour Plays event. Kourofsky is an alumna of St. Lawrence University and received her M.F.A. in Writing from Vermont College. She and her husband Kevin live in Webster. *Solitude* is an exploration of the character of Edith Bone, whose story gripped Kourofsky and wouldn't let go: "I'm fascinated by people who seem not to despair, even in the face of crushing injustice and seemingly unconquerable stupidity. I want to know their secret. Don't we all?"

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