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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GEVA THEATRE CENTER HOSTS YOUNG WRITERS SHOWCASE

Rochester, N.Y., April 23, 2019 - Geva Theatre Center hosts the **Young Writers Showcase** on **Saturday, May 11 at 3:00pm** 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 **Bella Callari** (Bishop Kearney High School), **Kaia Claffey** (Bishop Kearney High School), **Heather Hillman** (Hornell High School), **Sophia Milazzo** (Victor Senior High School), **Jessi Opett** (Bishop Kearney High School), and **Mina Stevens** (Pittsford Mendon High School).

Young Writers Showcase
Saturday, May 11, 3:00pm
Caprice by Bella Callari
Semifinals by Mina Stevens
Letters by Heather Hillman
It's Cold Here by Sophia Milazzo
Front Porch by Kaia Claffey
Told You So by Jessi Opett

**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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THE PLAYWRIGHTS

BELLA CALLARI is a sophomore at Bishop Kearney High School. She has been in theatre since she was seven years old, and is thrilled to have the opportunity to be on the other side of the stage and see a play she's written come to life. She's passionate about writing pieces involving mental health topics to try and bring awareness while helping to reduce the stigma surrounding it. Bella is incredibly grateful that she gets to show that side of her writing to an even larger audience through this amazing opportunity.

MINA STEVENS is a ninth grader at Pittsford Mendon High School. She is active in the school's Literary Magazine, Animation Club, and Jazz Ensemble. In her spare time, Mina enjoys drawing, composing music, writing, and playing the trombone. Mina is a fan of *Scott Pilgrim*, *Coraline*, and the musical *Be More Chill*. She is grateful for the opportunity that Geva Theater gives to young playwrights and is excited to see her play come to life.

HEATHER HILLMAN is a senior at Hornell High School and will be an honor graduate this May. She participates in the drama productions held at her school and is an avid reader and writer. She will be attending Alfred University in the Fall as a Business Management major.

SOPHIA MILAZZO is in 11th grade at Victor Senior High School. In her spare time, she enjoys participating in Victor's theatrical productions, watching *The Office*, and not studying for her AP exams. In the future, she plans to attend med school and specialize in adolescent psychiatry. *It's Cold Here* is the first play she's ever written, and she's so excited to have this opportunity to share it with the public.

KAIA CLAFFEY is a senior at Bishop Kearney High School. She enjoys reading and writing, as well as participating in track and volleyball. She is excited to be participating in this event at Geva, and thanks her family and friends for all their support.

JESSI OPETT is a sophomore at Bishop Kearney High School where she plays soccer and performs in the theatre department. In her free time she loves to read, write, and draw. She aspires to be an actress, writer or director when she is older. She would like to thank her family, friends, and her English teacher Mrs. Hoffman for all their support.

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

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