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## DIVE INTO THE HORNETS' NEST AT GEVA THEATRE CENTER

The 13<sup>th</sup> Season of Geva's nationally-recognized program of thought-provoking theatre continues on February 3rd with *hang* by debbie tucker green.

Rochester, N.Y., January 21, 2020 - Few experiences can ignite a great conversation like a thrilling night in the theatre. **The Hornets' Nest** series has theatre-goers itching for that conversation.

The Hornets' Nest series of script-in-hand readings with professional actors and directors returns with three plays investigating the most challenging and controversial ethical dilemmas of our time. Following each reading, audience members will have the opportunity to engage in open discussion with key figures from the Rochester community. Since its inception in 2007, the Hornets' Nest series of readings has become nationally recognized and lauded as one of the most innovative theatrical initiatives in the country.

The 2019-2020 series continues on **February 3** with *hang* by **debbie tucker green** and directed by **Pirronne Yousefzadeh**.

*A crime has been committed.  
The victim has a choice to make.  
The criminal is waiting.*

In an undefined space, three unnamed characters (One, Two and Three) are engaged in a judicial process. One and Two are officials overseeing the case, while Three (a Black woman) is there to decide the fate of a man who has committed an unspecified crime against her family. *hang* is shattering play about one woman's unspeakable decision. What is the line between criminal justice and revenge? Should repentance impact a demand for justice?

**debbie tucker green** is a British playwright, screenwriter, and director. She was born in London, and before beginning to write plays worked for a decade as a stage manager. She has written a number of plays, including *born bad* (Hampstead Theatre, 2003, Soho Repertory, New York, 2011 and winner of the 2004 Olivier Award for Most Promising Newcomer and an OBIE award for playwriting); *dirty butterfly* (Soho Theatre, 2003); *trade* (RSC, 2005); *stoning mary* (Royal Court Theatre, 2005); *generations* (Young Vic, 2007); *random* (Royal Court Theatre, 2008); *truth and reconciliation* (Royal Court Theatre, 2011); *nut* (The Shed, National Theatre, 2013) and *hang* (Royal Court Theatre, 2015). She adapted her play *random* into a TV film for Channel 4, which won the 2012 BAFTA for Best Single Drama and the Black International Film/MVSA Award for Best UK Film. In 2016,

she won an ARIA (Audio and Radio Industry Award) from the Radio Academy for her radio play, *Lament*. Produced by BBC Radio Drama London and broadcast on BBC Radio 4, *Lament* also won the Gold Best Audio Dramatisation prize. The Journal of Contemporary Drama in English has named her "one of the most stylistically innovative and politically engaged playwrights at work in Britain today."

*hang* is directed by Pirronne Yousefzadeh and the cast includes Joneice Abbott Pratt, Erin Anderson and Ian Lassiter.

Following the reading of *hang*, audience members will have the opportunity to discuss the questions that the play poses.

**The play reading is at 7:00pm in the Fielding Stage.** Tickets are free and, due to the popularity of this series, are limited to two per person. Reservations are recommended. Due to anticipated demand, all unclaimed tickets will be released at 6:45pm on the day of performance. Patron discretion is advised: *hang* deals with adult subject matter. To reserve tickets phone the Box Office: (585) 232-Geva (4382) or reserve online at [www.gevatheatre.org](http://www.gevatheatre.org).

The Fielding Stage is supported in part by the Gouvernet Arts Fund at The Rochester Area Community Foundation. Leadership support for the Hornet's Nest is provided by The Mary S. Mulligan Charitable Trust, and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Geva Theatre Center's Community Engagement Programming is made possible through generous support from the Allen & Joyce Boucher Advised Fund at The Community Foundation.

#### **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](http://GevaTheatre.org)

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