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BISHOP KEARNEY HIGH SCHOOL TAKES A BOW ON GEVA'S WILSON STAGE IN "THE STAGE DOOR PROJECT: *ONCE*"

Rochester, N.Y., February 26, 2020 –Geva's mission has always placed its work at the crossroads of artistic excellence and community engagement. One of the most unique education programs the theatre offers for emerging young artists in the Rochester area is the Stage Door Project. This program gives area high schools students the rare opportunity to explore the entire process of theatrical production with a nationally recognized, regional theatre. It offers an unparalleled professional experience fostering a deeper understanding of dramatic literature, the theatre industry and the process of bringing literature to life on the stage.

For **the Stage Door Project: *Once***, Geva is partnering with **Bishop Kearney High School**. Bishop Kearney has cast thirteen young actors from the High School as well as a number of students interested in technical theatre and marketing to join a creative team that mirrors Geva's. The stage management and stage operations students from Bishop Kearney have had several opportunities to meet with and shadow Geva's professional in-house production staff. The cast and creative team have had the unique opportunity to sit in on Geva's rehearsals and to work with Geva's acting company of professional actors. In a nutshell, students are following the entire process of putting on a show at Geva Theatre Center.

The Stage Door Project: *Once* culminates in a unique and rare opportunity. After rehearsing the show independently at their school, the student cast will perform their own version of *Once*, under the direction of Paula Steffen in the Wilson Stage on the set of Geva's production of *Once* for a one-night-only performance on **Monday, March 9 at 7:30pm**. Tickets for this performance are \$20 and are available online at www.gevatheatre.org, in person at the Geva Box Office, or via phone: (585) 232-4382.

For Geva Theatre Center and its professionals, it is an opportunity to share the wonder and creativity of students. The theatre acknowledges their roles as theatre stewards by interacting with this younger company and thanks them for the privilege of learning with them and from them.

The Stage Door Project: *Once* is supported in part by The Guido and Ellen Palma Foundation.

Tickets for the March 9th performance of *Once* are \$20 and can be purchased online at gevatheatre.org, in person at the box office, or via phone on (585) 232-4382.

**For further information, photographs or to arrange interviews, 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 STAGE DOOR PROJECT

In 2007 Geva collaborated with Brighton High School for a shadowing project of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*. The Brighton High School cast of the show and their director (who served as the assistant director for the Geva production) met with their professional counterparts in the Geva cast of *Our Town* to share their thoughts and examine the creative process while both productions rehearsed. At the conclusion of the project, the high school cast performed their production on the Geva set. This joint venture paved the way for the first Stage Door Project, *Almost, Maine* in 2010 which welcomed nine area high schools into every step of our production process resulting in a public performance of *Almost, Maine* on the Geva Stage. Subsequent Stage Door Projects centered on Geva's productions of *Over the Tavern*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Private Lives* and *The Diary of Anne Frank* have given area high school students the unique opportunity to shadow and observe the entire professional production process. The Stage Door Project is unique to Geva Theatre Center, and one of the only educational opportunities of its type in the country.

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