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CONSTELLATIONS

By Nick Payne Directed by Mark Cuddy

A family affair: Geva Theatre Center to open ‘Constellations’

Mark Cuddy works with family members on final directorial project as artistic director

Rochester, N.Y. — Geva’s newest production will be a theatrical family affair. The theatre continues its 49th season with the opening of “Constellations” — artistic director Mark Cuddy’s final directorial project before retiring — on Wednesday, Feb. 2. The production stars Mark’s son, Gus Cuddy, and Gus’ partner, Mari Vial-Golden, and features costumes designed by Mark’s wife, Christina Selian. “Constellations” runs through Feb. 20 on the Fielding Stage.

The high-concept romantic drama by Nick Payne starts with a simple encounter between a man and a woman. When they first meet, an infinite number of future possibilities lay before them. The stop-start-rewind action of the play asks *What if they all happened?* Science and romance collide in this clever, time-bending exploration of love and free will in the multiverse. The New Yorker calls the play “a singular astonishment, at once eloquent and mysterious.” “Who knew that higher physics could be so sexy, so accessible — and so emotionally devastating?” says The New York Times.

“Constellations” is Mark Cuddy’s final directorial project as artistic director, and he’s bringing his family along for the ride. Gus Cuddy and Mari Vial-Golden carry the two-character drama as Roland and Marianne. The couple met while performing at Geva in 2018. Mark Cuddy and costume designer Christina Selian recently celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. He will retire this July after 27 years with Geva, where he has overseen the production of more than 300 shows, including more than 35 world premieres, and directed 55 productions.

“This is a play, and a cast, that is near and dear to me,” says Cuddy. “Along with costume designer Christina Selian, my wife, I couldn’t think of a more fitting directing finale as artistic director of Geva Theatre Center.”

Christopher Bowser (scenic and lighting designer), Joanna Lynne Staub (sound designer), Claudia Nolan (dramaturg), Veronica Aglow (stage manager), Kate Duprey (production assistant), Blake Segal (dialect coach), Adriano Gatto (fight and intimacy coordinator), Meggins Kelly (movement consultant), and Luane Davis Haggerty (ASL consultant) complete the creative team.

Tickets for “Constellations” are on sale now and can be purchased by calling 585-232-4382, online at GevaTheatre.org, or in person at the box office Tuesday through Sunday from noon to 8 p.m.

Geva’s 49th Season is sponsored by ESL Federal Credit Union. Dr. Dawn Lipson serves as honorary season producer. The Fielding Studio Series is supported in part by The Government Arts Fund at The Community Foundation. Messner Flooring serves as associate producer for “Constellations.”

The season continues with “How to Catch Creation,” opening Feb. 22 on the Wilson Stage.

Geva is taking special care to keep everyone safe, including requiring proof of either COVID vaccination or a negative test for entry, along with masking. Patrons can find the theatre’s current indoor safety procedures at GevaTheatre.org/covid-safety.

About Geva Theatre Center

Geva Theatre Center is a nonprofit, professional theatre company in downtown Rochester, New York, offering world-class productions and extensive additional programming. Founded in 1972, Geva is the most well-attended regional theatre in New York State with one of the 25 largest subscription bases among regional theatres in the country. Geva serves as many as 160,000 patrons annually, including more than 20,000 students.

Geva’s 517-seat Wilson Stage and 180-seat Fielding Stage each offer a wide-ranging collection of drama, comedy and musical theatre, from classics to world premieres. The company also offers a broad slate of educational, outreach and literary programming to enrich audiences, students and artists of all ages and disciplines. Since 1995, Geva has been under the artistic direction of Mark Cuddy.

Geva Theatre Center sits on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Onöndowa’ga, or “the people of the Great Hill.” In English, they are known as the Seneca people, “the keeper of the western door.” They have stewarded this land through generations, and Geva pays respect and gives thanks to their elders, past and present.

Find out more about Geva Theatre Center at GevaTheatre.org or by connecting with us on social media. Facebook: facebook.com/gevatheatrecenter, Twitter: [@gevatheatre](https://twitter.com/gevatheatre), Instagram: [@gevatheatre](https://instagram.com/gevatheatre), LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/geva-theatre-center.

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