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Comedian Baron Vaughn presents New Comedy Series, The Work Out Room!

Rochester, N.Y. — Geva Theatre is delighted to announce details of new Artist in Residence Baron Vaughn’s comedy-in-process series, **The Work Out Room**. Over the course of Geva’s 2023-24 Season, Baron and two other comics will hone new material for long form comedy shows on Geva’s Fielding Stage!

“Baron Vaughn is one of the most extraordinary performers I know,” says Artistic Director Elizabeth Williamson. “Whether acting on TV (most recently in *Grace and Frankie*), writing, performing stand-up, on Broadway, or in Shakespeare (I first met him when he brought down the house in two comedic roles in my production of *Henry VI*), Baron is indeed a force to be reckoned with. We’re so grateful to have him launching his new series here at Geva next season!”

The Work Out Room, curated by Baron Vaughn, is an incredible, sure-to-be-hilarious series, where comics work out new material and build their next shows. The audience is a collaborative witness in the creation of something brand new, and what you find funny (or not) one night will impact the material presented the next night – and if you attend more than one show, you’re sure to see quite different performances! Come help them make their next big hit!

“I am grateful and honored to be working with the Geva Theatre Center on this project!” says creator and new Artist in Residence, Baron Vaughn. “You might have noticed more comedians doing ‘solo shows’ – shows less about going from joke to joke and more aimed at a central theme with a beginning, middle, and an end while maintaining the funny. To me, that looks like a

spiritual return to theatre. The goal of this program is for comedians to develop those long form shows with enough space and time to experiment with their processes, and refine their material as they go along. We'll also connect and collaborate with local talent in ways that will positively disrupt both the theatre and comedy communities. We're going to shake things up; especially your bellies when you chuckle."

The Work Out Room will feature three comics over the course of the season, with Baron Vaughn performing September 26 - October 8; and TBA comics performing January 23 - February 4; and June 11 - 23 at 8pm (there will be no performances on Mondays).

Learn more about Baron below:

Baron Vaughn is a force to be reckoned with in the world of entertainment. With a career that spans live comedy, acting, and directing, Baron's talent knows no bounds. As an actor, he's best known as "Bud", sharing the screen with Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin on the longest-running hit Netflix series, *Grace & Frankie*. Baron lends his voice as "Tom Servo" in the recent seasons of cult-hit, *Mystery Science Theater 3000*.

He's also a creative force behind the scenes, co-creating and co-hosting the groundbreaking Comedy Central showcase variety series *The New Negroes with Open Mike Eagle*. The show shined a light on both established and rising Black artists in comedy and music. In 2020, Baron continued to push boundaries with *Call & Response*, a limited series produced by Blavity and Funny or Die. Baron's deeply personal project *Fatherless*, directed by the award-winning Dawn Porter, explores the impact of absent fathers on families and communities while he also endeavored to finally connect with his own absent father.

As a stand-up comedian, Baron has been entertaining audiences for more than 20 years. He has two influential comedy recordings, *Raised by Cable* and *Blaxistential Crisis*, both available for streaming on all platforms. Baron's headlining performances at major clubs and colleges throughout the US have led him to perform at renowned festivals including *Just for Laughs* (Montreal & Vancouver), *Life Is Beautiful* (Las Vegas), and the *New York Comedy Festival*.

Baron's directorial debut, the short film "So Much To Do" featuring Toni Trucks, can be seen in the horror anthology, *Scare Package*, on Shudder. Baron holds a BFA in Acting from Boston University.

For more about our upcoming 2023-2024 season visit www.gevatheatre.org

Geva's Artists in Residence

Geva's new Artists in Residence program has two nationally acclaimed artists in residence, in rotating two year terms. Playwright Harrison David Rivers joined the company for the 2022-23 Season and will be here through the 2023-2024 Season. Baron Vaughn joins us for the 2023-24 Season and will stay into the 2024-25 Season.

About Geva Theatre Center

Founded in 1972, Geva Theatre Center is a not-for-profit, professional theatre company dedicated to creating and producing singular theatre productions and programs that serve the Rochester region and beyond, by illuminating the fullness of our many human experiences.

The 516-seat Elaine P. Wilson Stage is home to a wide variety of performances, from musicals to American and world classics. The 180-seat Ron & Donna Fielding Stage is home to Geva's series of contemporary drama, comedy, musical theatre, and new play development programs. In addition, the Fielding Stage hosts visiting companies of both local and international renown.

Geva offers a wide variety of educational, engagement, and literary programs, nurturing audiences and artists alike. Geva Theatre Center sits on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Onödowá'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.

Geva is under the leadership of Artistic Director Elizabeth Williamson and Executive Director Christopher Mannelli.

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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