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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## GEVA THEATRE CENTER'S 2019-2020 FIELDING STUDIO SERIES CONTINUES WITH *CRY IT OUT*

**Rochester, N.Y., February 17, 2020** – Geva Theatre Center's 2019-2020 Fielding Studio Series continues with *Cry It Out*, written by Molly Smith Metzler and directed by M. Bevin O'Gara. The production comes to Geva from the Kitchen Theatre and begins performances on **March 5** and runs in the Fielding Stage through **March 22**.

**Cooped up with a new baby and starved for conversation, Jessie invites her funny and forthright neighbor Lina, also a new mom, for coffee in the yard between their duplexes. Despite their vastly different finances, they become fast friends during naptimes—while someone watches from the mansion on the cliff overlooking Jessie's yard. This comedy by a writer/producer of *Shameless* takes an honest look at the challenges of being a new mom, being at home with a baby, and the dilemma of returning to work.**

Playwright (and SUNY Geneseo alumna) **Molly Smith Metzler** is the author of *Cry it Out*, *Elemeno Pea*, *The May Queen*, *Carve*, *Close Up Space* and *Training Wisteria*. Her regional credits include: Northlight Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, South Coast Repertory, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Chautauqua Theater Company, City Theatre, PlayMakers Repertory Company, Geva Theatre Center, Mixed Blood Theatre Company and more. In New York City: Manhattan Theatre Club (MTC). Metzler's awards include the Lecomte du Nouy Prize from Lincoln Center, the Harold and Mimi Steinberg National Student Playwriting Award from The Kennedy Center, the Association for Theatre in Higher Education's David Mark Cohen National Playwriting Award, the Mark Twain Prize for Comic Playwriting and a finalist nod for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. She is a proud alumna of the Ars Nova Play Group, the Dorothy Strelsin New American Writers Group at Primary Stages and the Cherry Lane Mentor Project. In television, Metzler has written for *Casual* (Hulu), *Orange Is the New Black* (Netflix), *Codes of Conduct* (HBO), and is currently a writer/producer on *Shameless* (Showtime). She is also a screenwriter, currently adapting Ali Benjamin's award-winning novel *The Thing About Jellyfish* into a film for OddLot Entertainment with Made Up Stories and Pacific Standard (Reese Witherspoon's company). In addition to SUNY Geneseo, Metzler was educated at Boston University, New York University's Tisch School for the Arts and the Juilliard School. She lives in Los Angeles and Kingston, N.Y.

*Cry It Out* premiered in 2017 as part of the Actors Theatre of Louisville Humana Festival of New American Plays. It has since been produced at theatres around the country.

The cast of *Cry It Out* all make their Geva Theatre Center debuts. **Mikaela Izquierdo** (Broadway production of *Cyrano de Bergerac* and Off-Broadway production of *Perfect Arrangement* at Primary Stages) is Jessie; **Melissa Miller** (Broadway production of *Tartuffe*, the National Tour of *The Merchant of Venice*) is Lina; **Brian Sgambati**

(Broadway productions of *The Merchant of Venice* with Al Pacino, *King Lear* with Christopher Plummer, and *The Coast of Utopia*) is Mitchell; and **Erica Steinhagen** (Kitchen Theatre productions of *Hand to God*, the world premiere of *Drunken City* and many more, Human Race Theatre Company's *The Drowsy Chaperone*) is Adrienne.

***Cry It Out*** is directed by the Kitchen Theatre's Artistic Director **M. Bevin O'Gara**. The creative team includes **Daniel Zimmerman** (Scenic Design), **Sarafina Bush** (Costume Design), **Tyler M. Perry** (Lighting Designer), and **Lesley Lisa Green** (Sound Design).

***Cry It Out* begins performances on March 4 and runs in the Fielding Stage through March 22.**

The 2019-2020 Season is sponsored by **ESL Federal Credit Union**. The Honorary Season Producer is **Dr. Dawn Lipson**. The Fielding Studio Series is supported in part by the Gouvernet Arts Fund at The Community Foundation. The Associate Producer for the Fielding Studio Series is St John's Rochester and the Media Sponsor is WYSL.

**For further information, additional photographs or to arrange interviews, please contact:  
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**PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

**Previews:** Wednesday, March 4 @ 7pm  
Thursday, March 5 @ 7pm  
Friday, March 6 @ 7pm  
Saturday, March 7 @ 2:30pm (Open Captioned performance)

**Opening: Saturday, March 7 @ 7:30pm**

**Performances:** Sunday, March 8 @ 3pm  
Tuesday, March 10 @ 7pm  
Wednesday, March 11 @ 7pm  
Thursday, March 12 @ 7pm  
Friday, March 13 @ 7pm  
Saturday, March 14 @ 2:30pm and 7:30pm  
Sunday, March 15 @ 3pm  
Tuesday, March 17 @ 7pm  
Wednesday, March 18 @ 7pm  
Thursday, March 19 @ 7pm  
Friday, March 20 @ 7pm  
Saturday, March 21 @ 2:30pm and 7:30pm  
Sunday, March 22 @ 3pm

**TICKET PRICES:** Tickets start at \$31.

**RESERVATIONS:** (585) 232-GEVA (4382), Website: [www.gevatheatre.org](http://www.gevatheatre.org)

**LOCATION:** Fielding Stage, Geva Theatre Center, 75 Woodbury Blvd, Rochester, NY 14607

### **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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