

# P.L.A.Y.

PERFORMANCE = LITERATURE + ART + YOU



Announcing Geva's 23/24  
**P.L.A.Y. STUDENT  
MATINEE SERIES**

For information and tickets,  
contact Olivia Spenard at 585-420-2052

**Geva**  
THEATRE  
EDUCATION

Season Sponsor





## The Wizard of Oz

By L. Frank Baum | Music & Lyrics by Harold Arlen & EY Harburg  
Dance and Vocal Arrangements by Peter Howard | Orchestration by Larry Wilcox  
Adapted by John Kane for the Royal Shakespeare Company | Directed by Zi Alikhan

**September 27 and 28 (Sold Out!) at 10:30am**

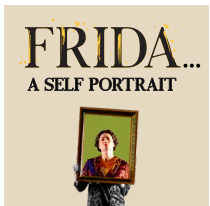
**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATION: September 1**

Follow the yellow brick road in this delightful stage adaptation of L. Frank Baum's timeless classic, featuring the iconic musical score from the MGM film. With the help of Dorothy Gale and her friends, director Zi Alikhan explores what it means to go "over the rainbow" to find your chosen family, and discover your true self in the Land of Oz. A visual spectacle for adults and children alike.

*Recommended for grades 5 - 12*

**Topics for Exploration:** Film Studies • Musical Theatre • LGBTQ+ Inclusion and Awareness • Found Family • Adaptations • Identity and Discovery Journeys • L. Frank Baum • Oz Origins, History, and New York State Connections • Home • American Fables • Optimism and Progress

**NYS Learning Standards for *The Wizard of Oz*:** <https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/NYS-Education-Standards-The-Wizard-of-Oz.pdf>



## Frida ... A Self Portrait

Written & Performed by Vanessa Severo  
Directed by Joanie Schultz

**November 2 at 10:30am**

Frida Kahlo was her own mysterious and brilliant muse. The iconic Mexican painter captured the difficulties and wonders of her life with incredible vibrancy. Now, she comes to life onstage through playwright and performer Vanessa Severo. *Frida... A Self Portrait* transports you to La Casa Azul, Frida's home, where Vanessa recounts the artist's bold life. With music and movement, she shares insights about Frida's physical limitations, complex love life, addictions and, of course, the beauty in her art. This searing new play cracks open a powerful portal between Vanessa and Frida bringing breathtaking physicality and raw honesty to this stunningly creative production.

*Recommended for grades 9 - 12*

**Topics for Exploration:** Art History • Latin American Studies • Feminist Studies • Frida Kahlo • Surrealism, Realism, and Magical Realism • Self Expression through Dance • Dis/Ability Studies • Solo Performance • Historic to Personal Connection • Mexican History

**Content Disclosure:** Minimal language, a few instances of discussion of sexual content, and mentions of suicide. This performance is 75 minutes with no intermission.

**NYS Learning Standards for *Frida... A Self Portrait*:** <https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/NYS-Learning-Standards-Frida.A-Self-Portrait.pdf>



## A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens  
Adapted by Mark Cuddy

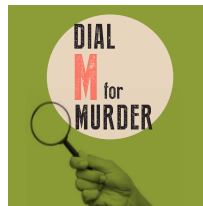
**December 5, 6, 12, 13, 19 (Sold Out!), and 21 at 10:30am**

This classic tale of the redemption of Ebenezer Scrooge, the most despised man in London, will awaken the heart and rekindle the spirit in Geva's critically acclaimed adaptation.

*Recommended for ages 5 and up*

**Topics for Exploration:** Traditions and Winter Holiday Celebrations • Cautionary Tales and Second Chances • Transformation and Redemption • Forgiveness • Classism and Wealth Inequity in 19th Century London • Literary Adaptations • Ethics • Cultivating Empathy • Charles Dickens • Celebrity and Social Justice

**NYS Learning Standards for *A Christmas Carol*:** <https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/NYS-Education-Standards-A-Christmas-Carol.pdf>



## Dial M for Murder

By Frederick Knott | Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher  
Directed by Rachel Alderman

**February 8 at 10:30am**

A new adaptation of the celebrated murder mystery that inspired Hitchcock's masterpiece! Tony is convinced that his wife Margot has been cheating on him. Now it seems that the affair is over, but in his jealousy, Tony spins a web of suspicion and deception that will tighten around them and ensnare them both in danger, recrimination, and murder.

*Recommended for grades 7 - 12*

**Topics for Exploration:** Adaptations • Literary Technique and Literary Devices • Film History • Mystery and Suspense • Deductive Reasoning • LGBTQ+ Characters and Themes • Noir • Classic Murder Mysteries • Theater Design • Alfred Hitchcock

**Content Disclosure:** A few instances of sexual innuendo, moments of heightened suspense, presence of stage weapons and staged combat.

**NYS Learning Standards for *Dial M for Murder*:** <https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/NYS-Standards-Dial-M-for-Murder.pdf>



## Sanctuary City

By Martyna Majok

A Kitchen Theatre Company Production

**March 26 and 28 at 10:30am**

From Martyna Majok comes this Pulitzer Prize-winning, poignant, and invigorating drama. Teenagers B and G are best friends and Dreamers, fighting to stay in America – the only home they’ve ever known. When she is naturalized, they hatch a plan to keep him here, but as time hurdles on, the challenges mount and threaten their friendship. Can they save each other – and their friendship – or will the risks be too great?

**Recommended for grades 10 - 12**

**Topics for Exploration:** Immigration • US History and Government • Culture • Undocumented Experiences • DREAMers • Displacement • Found Home • Friendship • Contemporary Writing Styles • Choice, Sacrifice, and Betrayal

**Content Disclosure:** Mature language, discussion of domestic abuse, domestic violence, and sex. The challenges and experiences these characters face may be difficult for some students to watch, especially if the story reflects experiences they or their loved ones have endured.

**NYS Learning Standards for *Sanctuary City*:** <https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/NYS-Standards-Sanctuary-City.pdf>



Eddie Gutierrez and Zach McNally in *Somewhere*. Photo by Ron Heerkens Jr.



## The Color Purple

By Alice Walker | Book by Marsha Norman

Music & Lyrics by Brenda Russell, Allee Willis & Stephen Bray

Directed by Kelli Foster Warder

**June 6 and 12 at 10:30am**

**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATION: March 1**

Based on the Pulitzer prize-winning novel by Alice Walker and adapted for the stage by Pulitzer Prize and Tony award-winner Marsha Norman, *The Color Purple* tells the story of courageous heroine Celie, as she journeys through joy, despair, anguish, and hope in her own personal awakening to discover her unique voice in the world. This intimate version of this landmark musical celebrates life, love, and the strength to stand up for who you are and what you believe in.

**Recommended for grades 10 - 12**

**Topics for Exploration:** Black History • Women’s Literature • Black Literature • Musical Theatre • Gender and Feminist Studies • Racism and Sexism • Self-Discovery • Solidarity • Faith and Spirituality • Power of Narrative and Voice • Transcending Adversity

**Content Disclosure:** Sexual and physical violence (including incest), racial slurs and the N word, implied drinking and drug abuse.

**NYS Learning Standards for *The Color Purple*:** <https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/NYS-Education-Standards-The-Color-Purple.pdf>



## Details

- Tickets may be reserved by contacting Olivia Spenard at 585-420-2052. Reservations can only be made via phone (*No reservations will be accepted via email*).
- All student matinees tickets are \$20 per ticket .
- 1 complimentary chaperone ticket is included for every 15 student tickets purchased.
- Final confirmation of ticket numbers is due three (3) weeks in advance of the Student Matinee performance.
- All payments must be received in full by two (2) weeks prior to the date of the performance. **Reservations that will only provide payment after the performance takes place (including from a third party) will not be accepted.**
- Student Matinees begin promptly at 10:30am. Groups are advised to coordinate their transportation to arrive at 10am and depart at approximately 1pm (varying by show), following the post-show talkback with cast members.
- All Student Matinees include:
  - ♦ **Teacher Preview:** Teachers who would like to attend a performance prior to bringing a group to a Student Matinee may request a complimentary preview ticket (for lead teacher(s) only).
  - ♦ **Discovery Guide:** Packed with information about the play, relevant context, suggested discussion questions, and related activities, the Discovery Guide unlocks every production's essential issues and avenues for classroom exploration.
  - ♦ **Discovery Workshops:** A professional artist-educator will travel to your school to explore the play's themes and production values, and inspire curiosity for the production. These interactive workshops are free, easy to schedule, take place in your own classroom and, most importantly, make a personal connection with students before they come to the theatre. (Discovery Workshops are not offered for *A Christmas Carol*).
  - ♦ **Post-Show Talkback:** Performances are immediately followed by a conversation with cast members so that students may respond to the performance and ask questions.
- Seating accommodations for persons with disabilities or special needs are available, and we offer free and convenient bus parking.

## About Geva's P.L.A.Y. Student Matinee Series

Every year we select the productions we most want to share with student audiences for our P.L.A.Y. Student Matinee Series. You bring your students to an exceptional, professional school-day performance; we'll make it easy, enriching, and fun.

We produce work that celebrates the human experience. The purpose and power of a theatrical event has always been to come together in the theatre to discover a new understanding of ourselves and, in turn, others. Learning Standards say our students will be able to "interpret, analyze and evaluate narratives, poetry, and drama by making connections to other texts, ideas, cultural perspectives, eras, personal events, and situations." In the theatre, making such connections is the work we do each and every day; Geva's education department is here to share the inquiry and discovery with your students. Let us pose new questions and share fresh insights. You and your students will explore each play this year as we do, inside and out. Experience the vibrant detail of a fully-staged production and the expressive power of ideas brought to life by phenomenal artists. Then talk with those very artists at the theatre following the performance. When you make a Student Matinee reservation, you're buying more than a ticket; you're choosing a complete educational journey for your students.

## Additional Resources for Teachers

### Education Subscription

We want you to become more familiar with Geva and enjoy the full range of our productions as you plan your students' experiences. Geva offers a discounted education subscription package for teachers and other educators. A current school ID for full-time teachers, student teachers, principals, guidance counselors, and school librarians is needed for verification (this offer excludes some performances and seating locations). To learn about our Education Subscription, call the Geva Box Office: (585) 232-4382.

### Evening and Public Performances

We also welcome student groups to our evening performances and public matinees – with many of the benefits of our P.L.A.Y. programming. A complete performance schedule is available on our website: [www.GevaTheatre.org](http://www.GevaTheatre.org). To reserve tickets for evening performances or public matinees, contact the Box Office at (585) 232-4382, then let Geva's education department know of your plans to attend so that we may include you in the production's educational programming.

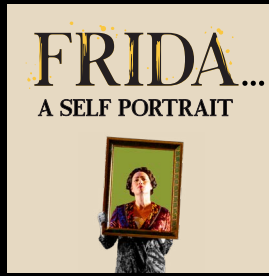
## Passport Program

If you are an RCSD teacher interested in attending a Student Matinee performance with your students, contact Olivia Spenard at 585-420-2052 to inquire about the possibility of free tickets through the Passport Program.

**Thanks to these generous supporters of Geva's Education Programs:**

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