

Geva Theatre presents *Sanctuary City*, a Kitchen Theatre Company production, beginning March 20

Rochester, N.Y. — From Pulitzer Prize-winner Martyna Majok comes this poignant and invigorating drama. Directed by Sara Lampert Hoover, *Sanctuary City* tells the story of teenagers B and G who are best friends and DREAMers, fighting to stay in America – the only home they’ve ever known. When G is naturalized, they hatch a plan to keep B 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? *Sanctuary City* runs March 20 - April 7 on the Fielding Stage. Tickets are on sale now, visit GevaTheatre.org or call the Box Office at 585-232-GEVA(4382).

Artistic Director Elizabeth Williamson says, “We are delighted to be welcoming Kitchen Theatre Company to Geva once again after most recently presenting their production of Lloyd Suh’s *The Chinese Lady* in 2022.”

This production of *Sanctuary City* by Martyna Majok was originally produced at Kitchen Theatre Company in Ithaca, NY. *Sanctuary City* was developed, in part, at the 2018 Sundance Institute Theatre Lab and received its world premiere at New York Theatre Workshop.

The Cast:

The company of performers includes **Shawn Denegre-Vaught** as B (*John Proctor is the Villain*, Studio Theatre), **Cheryse Dyllan** (she/her/they) as G (*How To Break*, The Village Theatre), and **Robert Denzel Edwards** as Henry (*Chicken & Biscuits*, TheatreSquared).

The Creative Team:

The creative team includes Director **Sara Lampert Hoover** (*Dancing Lessons*, Geva Theatre), Scenic & Lighting Design by **Indigo Shea** (Paper Mill Playhouse, Theatre Row), Costume Design by **Iris Estelle** (she/her) (Kitchen Theatre Company), and Sound Design by **Germán Martínez** (Northern Stages, Broadway: *Into the Woods*, *The Piano Lesson*). **Judy Bowman** (she/her) is the Casting Director, and **Ana Florencia López Ulloa** is the Dramaturg. **Shannon Toot** (she/her) is the Production Stage Manager and **Erin Holt** (she/her) is the Assistant Stage Manager.

ENGAGEMENT AT GEVA: Programming presented in conjunction with *Sanctuary City*

Geva Insights | Wednesday, March 27, Following the Performance • FREE

Immediately following the performance of *Sanctuary City* Cassandra Bocanegra, Setara Haidari, and Pamela Kim Adams (aka Ahyeong) share their stories on stage with Rachel DeGuzman - in

response to and dialogue with the play. They bring distinct, and local perspectives to one of the most urgent and divisive crises in our national consciousness – personally illustrating there is no singular immigration story, experience, or outlook.

Mondays at Geva | Monday, April 1, 6 - 8 p.m. • FREE

For *Sanctuary City*, Mondays at Geva features a Long Table Conversation and Installation centering the voices and perspectives of diverse immigrants who live in Rochester. The Long Table is a performative device created by artist/activist Lois Weaver in the early 2000s, and adapted by Rachel DeGuzman who has presented more than 67 in greater Rochester since 2018. Participants at the table will include Cassandra Bocanegra, Setara Haidari, Mai Abdullah, Haida Haidari, Mia Bocanegra, and Pamela Kim Adams (aka Ahyeong) – who is also co-curating the Long Table with DeGuzman. The poetry of Warsan Shire and Setara Hadari will be shared as well as the presentation of visual art by Setara Haidari. Refreshments will be served.

TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: March 20 - April 7, 2024

Where: On the Fielding Stage, 75 Woodbury Boulevard, Rochester, New York 14607

To Purchase: Tickets may be purchased [online](#), by calling 585-232-GEVA(4382), or in-person from the Box Office. *All prices, dates, and times are subject to change.*

Accessibility: Learn about our accessibility options [here](#).

Sanctuary City is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by TRW Plays, 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. www.theatricalrights.com

Geva's 51st Season is sponsored by ESL Federal Credit Union with Honorary Season Producer Dr. Dawn Lipson. The Fielding Studio Series is supported in part by the Gouvernet Arts Fund at the Rochester Area Community Foundation. *Sanctuary City* is presented with support from media sponsors CITY Magazine and WXXI.

About Geva Theatre

Founded in 1972, Geva Theatre is a not-for-profit, professional theatre company dedicated to creating and producing professional theatre productions, programs, and services of a national standard.

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 sits on the ancestral and unceded territory of the

O-non-dowa-gah, 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 James Haskins.

Find out more about Geva Theatre 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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