

Geva
THEATRE

24/25

Student Matinee
Series

A
Christmas
Carol

NINA
SIMONE
FOUR WOMEN

Little
Women

PURE NATIVE

Beautiful
The Carole King Musical

About Geva Theatre's Student Matinee Series:

Every year we select the productions we most want to share with student audiences for our 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 is 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; Education at Geva 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 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.

PASSPORT PROGRAM: If you are an RCSD teacher or a teacher at a Charter School within the Rochester city limits and are interested in attending a Student Matinee performance with your students, contact 585-420-2052 to inquire about the possibility of free tickets through the Passport Program. A limited number of tickets are available for each production.

All Student Matinees Include:

- **TEACHER PREVIEW:** Teachers who would like to attend a performance before bringing a group to a Student Matinee may request a complimentary preview ticket (for attending teachers only). Teacher previews are not offered for *A Christmas Carol*.
- **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 Guides are offered in both English and Spanish.
- **DISCOVERY WORKSHOPS:** A Geva Theatre 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 included in the ticket price, are easy to schedule, take place in your classroom, and establish a personal connection with students before they even come to the theatre. (Discovery Workshops are not offered for *A Christmas Carol*).
- **POST-PERFORMANCE TALKBACK:** Student Matinee performances are immediately followed by a conversation with cast members where students may respond to the performance and ask questions directly to the artists involved in the production.

Seating accommodations for persons with disabilities or special needs are available, and we offer free and convenient bus parking.



"They were mesmerized and engaged. In a typical school day where they most seem to care about their phones, it was powerful to observe them so engaged in a live performance."

Reservations, Pricing, and Policies:

- **Tickets may be reserved by calling 585-420-2052.**
Reservations will be accepted beginning on Wednesday, August 7, 2024
Reservations can only be made over the phone (no reservations will be accepted via email).
- All student matinee tickets are \$22 per ticket (with the exception of the November 21 and 22 preview performances of *A Christmas Carol*, which are \$20 per ticket).
- One (1) complimentary chaperone ticket is included for every 15 student tickets purchased.
- A non-refundable deposit of 25% of the ticket total and the signed contract are due two weeks after the reservation is made. If the deposit and signed contract are not received, the reservation will be canceled.
- Final confirmation of ticket numbers is due six (6) weeks prior to the performance date.
- Final payments must be received four (4) weeks prior to the performance date or the reservation will be canceled. Reservations that only provide payment after the performance (including from a third party) will not be accepted. No refunds will be given once payment has been received or if less students attend on the day of the performance.
- Student Matinee performances begin promptly at 10:30am. Groups are advised to coordinate their transportation to arrive at 10am and depart at approximately 1-1:30pm (varying by show), following the post-show talkback with cast members.

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, school administrators, guidance counselors, school librarians, and other school faculty and staff 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 Student Matinee Series programming! A complete performance schedule is available on our website: 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.

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

William & Sheila Konar Foundation
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The cast of *Ain't Misbehavin'*.
Photo by Ron Heerkens.



“The Discovery Guide was INCREDIBLE! My students asked deep questions; they wanted to know how the actors learned their dialects and if they had resources or a person to help, and what the process was like for the actors to make their characters into their own.”



A Christmas Carol

By **CHARLES DICKENS**

Adapted by **HARRISON DAVID RIVERS**

Directed by **ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON**

ALL NEW PRODUCTION – WORLD PREMIERE!

Dates: November 21 and 22, and December 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, and 18
at 10:30am

Open to grades K-12

Ticket Price:

- \$20.00/ticket for November 21 & November 22
Please note: *These two dates will be the very first performances of this new world premiere production. It's important to us that students be the first audiences to experience this adaptation that centers youth agency. Preview performances like these are significant to the creative process, as your students' reactions directly inform the playwright, director, design team, and actors about how the story is being received while the production is still in its preview period, before the official opening. We are excited to welcome students into this artistic conversation!*
- \$22.00/ticket for all December dates

Synopsis: Charles Dickens' holiday classic returns to the Geva stage in a magical new adaptation by playwright-in-residence Harrison David Rivers. Over the course of a single night, notorious grump Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by four ghosts. But will their intervention prompt him to change his "humbug" ways? Filled with humor, heart, hope – and a little bit of horror – *A Christmas Carol* reminds us that it is never too late to have a change of heart.

A note from Education at Geva: We have had such high demand for student matinee performances of *A Christmas Carol* over the past several seasons – with the 6 student performances we typically offer selling out by late September, and a waiting list of over 1,500 students each year! To create greater opportunity, we have added 2 additional student matinee performances. This new production of *A Christmas Carol* focuses on Tiny Tim, centers youth agency in this story, and opens up dialogue surrounding important conversations of disability, pity versus empathy, introspection, and more.

Topics for Exploration: *Classic Literature • Theatre Tech and Design • Traditions and Winter Holiday Celebrations • Cautionary Tales and Second Chances • Transformation and Redemption • Reflection and Forgiveness • Classism and Wealth Inequity in 19th Century London • Literary Adaptations • Ethics • Cultivating Empathy • Charles Dickens • Celebrity and Social Justice • Dis/Ability Narratives • Youth Agency*

Content Disclosure: This production may feature some strobe lighting or loud noises, and some moments could be a bit frightening for younger students

New York State Learning Standards for *A Christmas Carol*: <https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/A-Christmas-Carol-NYS-Education-Standards.pdf>

“My students were enthralled by the POV of the characters, and how they were swayed by the other characters in different ways at different times of the story. Even more, they were eager to take part in the conversation with the actors after the show!”

NINA
SIMONE
FOUR WOMEN

Nina Simone: Four Women

By CHRISTINA HAM

Dates: January 28 and February 4 at 10:30am

Open to grades 10-12

Synopsis: On September 16, 1963 when Nina Simone heard that four Black girls had been killed in the bombing of the 16th Avenue Church in Birmingham, Alabama, her first impulse was to build a zip gun; instead, she channeled her rage into “Mississippi Goddamn,” the song that marked the emergence of Nina Simone, the Civil Rights activist. Infused with traditional hymns along with songs including “Four Women,” “I Loves You, Porgy,” and “Young, Gifted and Black,” *Nina Simone: Four Women* looks at an artist and the Black women around her as their journey leads them down a path of discovery and healing.

Topics for Exploration: American History and the Civil Rights Movement • Black History • Feminist Studies • Music History and Songwriting • Nina Simone • Social Justice and Celebrity • Womanhood and Intersectionality • Playwriting and Autobiography • Reckoning with Injustice • Music as Protest • Black Identity • Jim Crow Laws and American Racism • Civic Artistry

Content Disclosure: This play contains strong language and discussion that references violence, the use of racial epithets, and sexual intimacy

New York State Learning Standards for *Nina Simone: Four Women*: <https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Nina-Simone-Four-Women-NYS-Education-Standards.pdf>

Little
Women

Little Women

By LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

Adapted by HEATHER CHRISLER

Directed by JENN THOMPSON

Dates: March 18, 25, 26, 27, and 28 at 10:30am

Open to grades 6-12

Synopsis: Louisa May Alcott’s classic novel comes to fresh life in this inventive, theatrical adaptation which follows as the March sisters – Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy – gather in the family attic. From making up fairy stories, writing for their pretend newspaper, and playing make-believe, they graduate to scenes of love, loss, and – for Jo – artistic self-discovery as they come of age against the backdrop of the American Civil War.

Topics for Exploration: American History and the Civil War • Playwriting • Acting and Contemporary Performance • Adaptation from Page to Stage • Women’s Literature • Feminist Storytelling • Women’s Suffrage • Generational Relationships • Defying Expectations • Sisterhood and Personal Growth • Individualism and Finding your Voice

Content Disclosure: None

New York State Learning Standards for *Little Women*: <https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Little-Women-NYS-Education-Standards.pdf>

“They were blown away. They are still talking about it days later – particularly the use of movement in storytelling.”

PURE NATIVE

Pure Native

By VICKIE RAMIREZ (TUSCARORA)

Directed by RANDY REINHOLZ (CHOCTAW)

In Association with FRIENDS OF GANONDAGAN and NATIVE VOICES

Dates: April 23 and 24 at 10:30am

Open to grades 9-12

Synopsis: Brewster's back after almost a decade and things have changed. Brews is proud of his success working for a large corporation and wants to share it with the people of his Rez in Upstate New York. After all, it's been a bad year, and Brews believes partnering with his corporation on a new bottled water factory would be a great opportunity for the Rez to create its own industry and sustain itself. But to his old love, Connie, it's a betrayal of everything the Haudenosaunee stand for. Who will win?

Topics for Exploration: Indigenous History • Contemporary Playwriting and Theatre • Personal Growth and Defying Expectations • Culture and Tradition • Mental Health and Recovery • Ethics and Moral Courage • Ancestry and Heritage • Coping with Loss • Reckoning with the Past • Discovering Purpose • Found and Chosen Family • Friendship and Love • Returning Home • Belonging and Othering

Content Disclosure: Mature language, including Native American/Indigenous epithets, and references to sexual intimacy, addiction, mental illness, and personal trauma

New York State Learning Standards for *Pure Native*: <https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Pure-Native-NYS-Education-Standards.pdf>



DeLanna Studi in *And So We Walked*.
Photo by Zach Rosing.



The cast of *The Wizard of Oz*.
Photo by Ron Heerkens.

"I find that teaching hard subjects is made easier by coming to it through the arts first. This performance allowed us to discuss and process those subjects. The Discovery Guide was incredible. We used it, almost in its entirety. The links in it were great, the depth of the information was thorough, and the insights from the director and cast were wonderful. Geva's education department does a phenomenal job of helping to convey the emotional and intellectual accessibility and stimulation of Geva's productions for young people."

Beautiful
The Carole King Musical

Beautiful: The Carole King Musical

Book by **DOUGLAS MCGRATH** | Words and Music by **GERRY GOFFIN & CAROLE KING, BARRY MANN & CYNTHIA WEIL** | Music by Arrangement with **SONY MUSIC PUBLISHING** | Orchestrations, Vocal and Incidental Music Arrangements by **STEVE SIDWELL** | Additional Music Arrangements by **JASON HOWLAND** | Co-Production with **PIONEER THEATRE COMPANY** | Directed by **KAREN AZENBERG**

Dates: June 3 at 10:30am **Open to grades 9-12**

Synopsis: Before she was hitmaker Carole King, she was Carol Joan Klein, an up-and-coming teen songwriter from Brooklyn. *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* is the inspiring story of how this young artist made her mark on the music industry – and found her own voice in the process. This Tony Award-winning musical with a book by the late Oscar- and Tony-nominated Douglas McGrath features the unforgettable songs “Will You Love Me Tomorrow,” “You’ve Lost that Lovin’ Feeling,” “Natural Woman,” and “I Feel the Earth Move” from King’s iconic songbook.

Topics for Exploration: Life and Career of Carole King • American Music History • Contemporary Musical Theatre and Jukebox Musicals • Feminism and Sexism in the Music Industry • Self-Discovery and Finding Your Voice • Love and Loss • Iconic Songwriting Duos and Musical Groups of the 60s and 70s • New York City Music History – Brill Building and 1650 Broadway • Mid-Century Pop Culture

Content Disclosure: Some mature language and references to sexual intimacy

New York State Learning Standards for *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*: <https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Beautiful-NYS-Education-Standards.pdf>



“Over 90% of our students have never been to any type of theater production, so I wanted to give them that experience. I wanted them to love and appreciate something outside of their comfort zone. This particular production fit into the theme of identity, which is the focus of the class I teach. My students were shocked and excited to see themselves reflected in the actors onstage. THANK YOU for such an amazing, positive experience. I cannot say enough good things or adequately tell you how incredible this experience was for my students.”