

**Geva Theatre celebrates August Wilson with his
autobiographical one-actor play
How I Learned What I Learned
On stage October 15 - December 1**

Rochester, N.Y. — Geva Theatre continues its 52nd season with August Wilson's *How I Learned What I Learned* on the Fielding Stage from October 15 - December 1. From Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson comes this autobiographical one-actor play chronicling Wilson's life as a Black artist in the Hill District in Pittsburgh. Through stories about his first jobs, first loves, and experiences with racism, audiences go deep into the life of one of the most celebrated writers of the 20th century, from his roots to the completion of his history-making American Century Cycle. This production is directed by **taneisha duggan**. Tickets are on sale now; visit GevaTheatre.org or call the Box Office at 585-232-GEVA(4382).

"Over the course of the first few months I was in Rochester, as I met with people around town, one thing that kept coming up was what a highlight August Wilson's Century Cycle of plays had been for many here in Rochester (Geva was one of a handful of regional theatres to share the full cycle with their audiences, especially in "decade" order!)," said Artistic Director Elizabeth Williamson. "With that in mind, our Curation Team was thrilled to bring *How I Learned What I Learned* to Geva this season, and we couldn't be happier to have director taneisha duggan and actor Stephen Conrad Moore here to bring it to life!"

The company is thrilled to return to the work of one of America's greatest playwrights in the intimate setting of the Fielding Stage. Geva has presented all of Wilson's Century Cycle, having first produced his play *Fences* in 1986. Wilson's work was last seen on Geva's stages in 2011 when the company presented *Radio Golf* and a reading of *King Hedley II*.

"Our production of *How I Learned What I Learned* is a memory play. To me, it serves as an epilogue of sorts to August's 10-play cycle. It gives us a look back through the eyes of a man who gave us some of the American Theater's most consequential plays and through his memories we get a peek into the tender, hilarious, and sometimes outrageous parts of an icon," shared Director taneisha duggan.

The Creative Team:

Director **taneisha duggan** (all pronouns) is a director and producer whose projects tend toward provocative new works and interpretations of the classics. She is propelled by the belief that the culture we present in our stories, is the society we become. Select Directing credits: *Pass Over* (Lost Nation), *Bulrusher* (Juilliard), *Blue Door* (Juilliard), *Actually* (TheaterWorks Hartford). Select Producing credits: *NYTimes* Critic's Pick *Walden* by Amy Berryman and *Russian Troll*

Farm by Sarah Gancher. Education: SUNY - Purchase College. She is a 2016 National Arts Strategies Creative Community Fellow, mama of two boys, and believer in radical love-filled disruption.

Joining Duggan on the creative team are Scenic Designer **Nina Ball** (she/her) (St. Louis Rep., Theatreworks, Shotgun Players), Costume Designer **Jarrood Barnes** (he/him) (Geva: *The Color Purple*; Horizon Theater Company, Stages Theater), Lighting Designer **Xavier Pierce** (Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), Co-Sound Designer **Ty Hunt Fitzgerald** (he/they) (Broadway: *Hell's Kitchen*; The Public Theater), Projection Designer **Dan Roach** (he/him) (Geva Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Walnut Street Theatre), and Associate Lighting Designer **Jonah Bobilin** (he/they) (Hawaii Theatre, Kennedy Theatre, New York Stage). **Kevin Gregory Dwyer** (he/him) is the Production Stage Manager. Casting by **Erica Jensen, CSA** and **Calleri Jensen Davis**.

The Cast of *How I Learned What I Learned*:

Starring in this production, Geva welcomes **Stephen Conrad Moore** (he/him) to the Fielding Stage. Mr. Moore was fortunate to witness August Wilson in motion while he was a graduate student at The Yale School of Drama and understudied a role in the original production of Mr. Wilson's last play, *Radio Golf* at The Yale Repertory Theatre. He is honored to be here and share the words of Mr. Wilson. Mr. Moore has appeared on television shows like *Empire*, *The Path*, *The Good Fight*, and the series finale of *Better Call Saul* (to name a few). He recently completed 5 seasons of *The Bold Type* as Oliver Grayson, the fashion editor of Scarlet Magazine. He has appeared on numerous theatrical stages in New York City and across the US (such as The Vineyard, American Theatre Company, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Shakespeare Theatre in DC, Yale Rep, The Guthrie, The McCarter Theatre Center; and has originated leading roles in plays by Thomas Bradshaw, Ellen McLaughlin, and Colman Domingo, amongst others. Most recently, he made his Broadway debut in *Uncle Vanya* at Lincoln Center. Mr. Moore is a graduate of the University of Missouri – Kansas City and The Yale School of Drama.

Rochester-local **David A. Shakes** will be understudying Mr. Moore and has been in multiple productions at Geva Theatre including *Two Trains Running*, *Fences*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, and *Member of the Wedding*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. He was presented with Geva's Essie Calhoun Award for Diversity in the Arts and the City of Rochester's Key to the City for his community contributions. A longtime Rochester resident, Mr. Shakes has appeared with Blackfriars, RAPA, JCC CenterStage, Downstairs Cabaret Theatre, Shipping Dock, Rochester Community Players and the Avenue Black Box as actor/guest artist, director and producer. He was founder of the Village Theatre and founding member of the Spirit House Movers and Players, a touring company under the direction of Amiri Baraka. Mr. Shakes studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Empire State College (BS) and Syracuse University (MSW). He is a much sought after historic interpreter and a retired RCSD social worker. Currently, he is artistic director of the North Star Players.

TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: October 15 - December 1, 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](#).

Geva's 52nd Season is sponsored by ESL Federal Credit Union with Honorary Season Producer Dr. Dawn Lipson. August Wilson's *How I Learned What I Learned* is presented with support from Media Sponsors 103.9 WDKX and WXXI.

How I Learned What I Learned is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

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.

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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