

Geva Theatre announces the lineup for the 25/26 Season

Come Home to Geva!

Sponsored by ESL Federal Credit Union
Honorary Season Producer Dr. Dawn Lipson

Rochester, N.Y. — Geva Theatre’s Artistic Director Elizabeth Williamson, Executive Director James Haskins, and Curation Team (which includes Jasmine B. Gunter, Fiona Kyle, DeLanna Studi, and Baron Vaughn as well as Williamson) are delighted to announce Geva’s 2025/26 Season. Come home to Geva with heartfelt family dramas, a mystery, comedies, a musical, and a world premiere from one of our Artists in Residence.

Geva is expanding its One Geva subscription series, a full season of exciting work across our two stages – five shows in the Wilson and now two in the Fielding. It features equally significant and inspiring work across all spaces with the same production values and the same level of excellence in artistry.

“As we put together our 2025/26 Season, we found themes of home emerging across our programming: from sisters connecting over a family recipe, to newlyweds moving into a new apartment together, to a young woman searching for a sense of belonging – a sense of *home*, *love*, and *family*”, said Artistic Director Elizabeth Williamson. “We’re also delighted to welcome back home to Geva a number of artists whose work has already had great impact here in the past, including playwright Christin Eve Cato, director Rachel Alderman, and writer, actor, and comedian Baron Vaughn. We’re excited to invite old friends, new collaborators, and audiences alike to come home to Geva.”

James Haskins, Executive Director, adds “Elizabeth and I look forward to expanding upon the One Geva philosophy announced last year to further enhance the 2025/26 subscription series programming and beyond. We will share a variety of stories, experiences, and perspectives on both of our stages and in partnership with the multiple communities of Greater Rochester. We are grateful for our Season Sponsor ESL Federal Credit Union and Honorary Season Producer Dr. Dawn Lipson for their continued support, along with our dedicated Board of Trustees and all Geva supporters who make the work we produce on our stages possible.”

Geva will kick off the season in September on the Wilson Stage with ***The Play That Goes Wrong*** by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer & Henry Shields. Next, on the Fielding Stage, will be Christin Eve Cato’s ***Sancocho***. In the new year, we return to the Wilson Stage with ***Susan Hill’s The Woman in Black***, adapted by Stephen Mallatratt, directed by Robin Herferd, and produced by Pemberley Productions. Next up on the Wilson is ***Barefoot in the Park*** by Neil Simon. The season continues on the Wilson with ***Furlough’s Paradise*** by a.k. payne, winner of the 2025 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. Then on the Fielding Stage will be the World Premiere

Commission of 23/25 Artist in Residence Baron Vaughn's solo play **Baron Vaughn: Cycle Breaker**. Closing the 25/26 Season is **Anastasia: The Musical**, with book by Terrence McNally, music by Stephen Flaherty, lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, inspired by the Twentieth Century Fox Motion Pictures, by special arrangement with Buena Vista Theatrical, and from the play by Marcelle Maurette as adapted by Guy Bolton.

In addition to the season, there are two exciting special productions. Tickets are on sale now for **Always...Patsy Cline**, created and originally directed by Ted Swindley, coming to the Wilson Stage July 2025. Then in November of 2025, **A Christmas Carol** adapted by Harrison David Rivers in collaboration with Sally Lobel, returns to the Wilson Stage.

"ESL is proud to return as Geva Theatre's headlining sponsor for the 2025/26 season," said Rich Pulvino, vice president/director, marketing, ESL Federal Credit Union. "We value our longstanding partnership with Geva and the transformative impact their productions and programs bring to our community. Geva's work inspires dialogue, contains rich artistic expression, and makes connections among diverse audiences through shared artistic experience." ESL Federal Credit Union has served as Season Sponsor since 2014.

Dr. Dawn Lipson serves as Honorary Season Producer.

We are happy to announce that Jeffrey L. Page, who directed and choreographed Geva's production of *Ain't Misbehavin'* in 2023 and last year directed *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*, will be our 2025-2027 Artist in Residence! Jeffrey joins 2024-2026 Artist in Residence DeLanna Studi to serve on our Senior Leadership, Curation, and Strategic Planning teams.

Subscriptions for Geva's 2025/26 Season are on sale now and may be purchased by calling the Geva Theatre Box office at 585-232-4382. Tickets to all individual productions will go on sale to the general public in July. To learn more about the season visit, [GevaTheatre.org](https://www.gevatheatre.org).

2025/26 Season

The Play That Goes Wrong

Co-Production with Indiana Repertory Theatre

By Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer & Henry Shields

Directed by Benjamin Hanna

Wilson Stage | September 9-October 12, 2025

A long-running commercial success on the West End and Broadway comes to Geva! The intrepid thespians of the Cornley Drama Society are more or less ready to raise the curtain on the grandest production the village has ever seen, *The Murder at Haversham Manor* – until things go from bad to calamitous. There's an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that won't play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines) – and that's only the first act. It's nothing you want in a show – and everything you want in a comedy!

Sancocho

By Christin Eve Cato

Fielding Stage | October 14-November 23, 2025

Caridad is determined to teach her younger sister to cook the family recipe for the traditional beef stew, sancocho – but Renata only wants her to review their father’s will. Simmering between the two Puerto Rican sisters is a family tension that finally comes to a boil as their father enters hospice care. Christin Eve Cato’s *Sancocho* explores family secrets, generational divides, and the healing that can only come from a meal made with love.

Susan Hill’s The Woman in Black

By Susan Hill

Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt

Directed by Robin Herferd

Produced by Pemberley Productions

Wilson Stage | January 14-February 8, 2026

The second longest-running play in the history of the West End, *The Woman in Black* is a chilling drama, adapted by Stephen Mallatratt from the 1983 novel by Susan Hill. Mallatratt conjured a complete world into which generations of young people have entered, surrendering to the ultimate magic of theatre: their own imaginations. A dark and scary mystery unfolds as an old man recounts the events of his youth when he went to the fog-embanked countryside of England to settle the estate of a family shrouded in a tragedy that continues to haunt (literally!) anyone who comes too close.

Barefoot in the Park

By Neil Simon

Directed by Rachel Alderman

Wilson Stage | February 24-March 29, 2026

Opposites attract in Neil Simon’s celebrated romantic comedy. Newlyweds Paul, a straight-laced lawyer, and Corie, a free-spirit, have barely returned from their honeymoon, and their marriage is already on the fritz, like the telephone line in their new apartment. Corie wants Paul to be more spontaneous and do things like run “barefoot in the park,” and Paul just wants to get a good night’s sleep. When Corie’s prim and proper mother drops by for an unexpected visit, and their eccentric upstairs neighbor, Mr. Velasco, climbs in through their upstairs window, hilarity ensues! This slice of newlywed life is sure to remind even long-married couples of the pleasures and perils of falling in love.

Furlough’s Paradise

By a.k. payne

Directed by Jasmine B. Gunter

Wilson Stage | April 14-May 10, 2026

Winner of the 2025 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and Winner of the 20th Annual Alliance/Keneda National Graduate Playwriting Competition. On a three-day furlough for her mother's funeral, Sade stays with her only cousin. Mina is also on a brief reprieve from her life on the West Coast, and the cousins, who were once so close, come together to try to make sense of grief, home, and kinship as time ticks toward Sade's return to prison. "An abolition play or simply a play about cousins" from one of America's most promising new playwrights.

Baron Vaughn: Cycle Breaker

By Baron Vaughn

Fielding Stage | April 28-June 7, 2026

Nothing brings your own childhood into focus like raising your own children. Married 40-something father, Baron Vaughn digs into his own past to understand how it formed him and how he'll approach parenthood in his funny and deeply human solo show. Baron explores his relationships with his parents and grandparents as he uncovers the values he wishes to instill and the damage he'd rather not pay forward to his own children. Part stand-up comedy, part memory play, *Baron Vaughn: Cycle Breaker* is a meditation on family and what it takes to truly break a cycle.

Anastasia: The Musical

Book by Terrence McNally

Music by Stephen Flaherty

Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Inspired by the Twentieth Century Fox Motion

Pictures by special arrangement with Buena Vista Theatrical

From the play by Marcelle Maurette as adapted by Guy Bolton

Directed by Elizabeth Williamson

Wilson Stage | May 27-June 28, 2026

This Tony Award-nominated musical inspired by the beloved films takes us on a journey to the past. Iconic songs like "Once Upon a December," "Learn to Do It," and "Journey to the Past" transport us from the darkness of Soviet Russia to the opulence of Paris in the '20s, as Anya and new friends Dmitry, a handsome conman, and Vlad, a bumbling ex-aristocrat, hatch a plan to pass her off as Grand Duchess Anastasia to her grandmother, the Dowager Empress. But could it be that Anya really is the long-lost Romanov?

Additional Programming

***Always...Patsy Cline* SUMMER 2025 - Tickets on Sale Now**

Created and originally directed by Ted Swindley

Based on a true story

Directed by Thalia Schramm

Wilson Stage | July 15-August 3, 2025

Get ready for a toe-tapping, heartwarming celebration of one of country music's most legendary voices! *Always...Patsy Cline* brings the iconic singer's hits to life in a heartfelt musical packed with humor, friendship, nostalgia, and unforgettable music. Based on the true story of Patsy Cline's bond with devoted fan Louise Seger, this charming production features beloved classics like "Crazy," "I Fall to Pieces," and "Walkin' After Midnight." Whether you're a longtime fan or discovering her music for the first time, *Always...Patsy Cline* is a must-see journey through the songs and spirit of a true music legend.

A Christmas Carol

By Harrison David Rivers

In collaboration with Sally Lobel

Originally Directed by Elizabeth Williamson

Remount Director: Jasmine B. Gunter

Wilson Stage | November 22-December 28, 2025

Rochester's favorite holiday tradition returns with this adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic story. Beginning with a wish made by young Tim Cratchit, over the course of one night notorious grump Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by four ghosts. But will their intervention prompt him to change his "humbug" ways? *A Christmas Carol* reminds us that it is never too late to have a change of heart.

Connectivity at Geva *Education, Engagement, & Accessibility*

For the 2025/26 season we are excited to continue offering the ROC Geva Pass, a partnership with the City of Rochester to provide two hundred complimentary tickets for each of Geva's Subscription Series Productions to city residents in specified zip-codes. Visit gevatheatre.org/engagement/#RocPass for updates on when tickets will be released.

Engagement at Geva programs also include *Geva Insights*, Mondays at Geva, the Essie Calhoun Diversity in the Arts Awards, symposiums and more. Dates and events will be announced on the company's website through the season.

Education at Geva will include student matinee performances of *A Christmas Carol*, *The Woman in Black*, *Barefoot in the Park*, and *Anastasia*. We will also hold a five-week Musical Theatre Summer Academy conservatory training program for young actors ages 12-18 in July of 2025. Auditions began in March and partial need-based scholarships will be available.

For over twenty years, SUNY Brockport has been a wonderful partner to Geva Theatre in nurturing students through professional artistic experiences in the Geva-Brockport Alliance, and we are thrilled to continue our alliance with them! Each semester, SUNY Brockport students engage with Geva's staff and visiting artists through performance opportunities, internships, show attendance, workshops, facilitated conversations, classes, and more. Many of these

students have gone on to work at Geva as full-time staff members, as performers on our stages, and at theatres across the country.

Other Geva Education programs will center on expanding in-school workshops, classes in Geva's Fielding Stage, college internships in performance and with behind-the-scenes departments at Geva for students at multiple institutions throughout the greater Rochester region, and expanded accessibility.

The full list of accessible performances for the 2025/26 Season can be found [here](#).

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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