

PUSH PHYSICAL THEATRE COMES TO GEVA WITH *GENERIC MALE* Select Dates May 2 - May 10

Rochester, N.Y. — Geva Theatre brings Rochester’s internationally renowned **PUSH Physical Theatre** to the Fielding Stage (May 2-10) with its multi award-winning show ***Generic Male*** for six performances: Friday, May 2 @ 7:30pm; Saturday, May 3 @ 2:30pm (ASL Interpreted); Saturday, May 3 @ 7:30pm; Friday, May 9 @ 7:30pm; Saturday, May 10 @ 2:30pm; Saturday, May 10 @ 7:30pm. The show is approximately 80 minutes, plus a 15-minute intermission with an age rating of 14 and up. Tickets are \$40 + service fees with One Geva Subscribers receiving a discounted rate of \$35 + service fees. Tickets are on sale now; visit GevaTheatre.org or call the Box Office at 585-232-GEVA(4382).

Lauded by critics as “Samuel Beckett meets Cirque du Soleil with a dash of Monty Python,” this irreverent comedy spirals through explosive choreography, unexpected humor, and raw emotional shifts. *Generic Male* is a chaotic meditation about our constant need to perform — on stage, offstage, as ourselves, and as other people. It asks what it means to take up space in a world that’s falling apart around us.

Told through PUSH Physical Theatre’s trademark intense athleticism, gravity-defying acrobatics, and soulful artistry, it centers around four characters — Generic Male 1, Generic Male 2, Generic Male 3, and a Stage Manager— as they audaciously attempt to create the greatest piece of theatre of the 21st century.

"This show has taken quite the journey, in fact we just returned from performing it in England," says PUSH Co-Artistic Director **Darren Stevenson**. "We're very grateful for all the people who have helped in its evolution, and we hope — as with all of our work — it will inspire as well as entertain."

Geva Executive Director **James Haskins** shared, “I had the great pleasure of seeing *Generic Male* last year in a one night only performance at The Little and also saw PUSH perform during RPO’s Eclipse concert. I am thrilled to welcome them back to the Fielding Stage, where they initially performed for a sold-out show for Geva in 2008.”

Generic Male made its World Premiere in Rochester during the 2021 Rochester Fringe Festival. Since then the show has progressed through years of refinement and audience feedback. The masculinity satire is one of only 14 Fringe productions in the world to receive a 2022 International Fringe Encore Series Award from NYC’s SoHo Playhouse, which led to the show’s first Off-Broadway run of eight performances that December. Winner of the “International Fringe

Encore Series,” and a myriad of other awards including “Critics Choice Best Show,” “Outstanding Production,” and multiple “Best of Fests,” it has toured regularly across the U.S. as well as internationally.

About the Performers:

Darren Stevenson (Founding Artistic Co-Director, PUSH), born in England and now a U.S. citizen, met PUSH co-founder and wife Heather Stevenson during their studies at The Center in St. Louis. Both went on to study with Several Dancers Core in Atlanta and The Goldston & Johnston School for Mimes at Kenyon College. In Atlanta, the Stevensons founded The Studio School of the Arts, a community training center. In 2000, they relocated to Rochester, NY, where PUSH Physical Theatre was born. Rather than relying on their trained movement vocabulary, PUSH was formed from a shared belief that each performer should bring their unique life experiences to the stage. Darren leads the company and has also spoken about PUSH’s unique, improvised creative process at TEDx Rochester.

Ashley Jones (Creative Director, PUSH) is a physical actor, deviser, and director. He trained at Rose Bruford College and Academia Teatro Dimitri before going on to train with Phillipe Gaulier and Angela De Castro in theatrical clowning. As a physical performer, Ashley has worked and trained with international theatre companies Gecko Physical Theatre, The David Glass Ensemble, Nonsuch Theatre, and Frantic Assembly. His recent devised work includes: *LifeHack* (2019), *Intotheclouds* (2018), *The Party’s Over* (2017), *Eclipse* (2017), and *The Russian Play* (2017). Directing credits include *Rite of Passage* (2015, 2016), *EnCircled* (2019), and *TILT* (2019). Ashley would like to thank the generous support of the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts.

About PUSH Physical Theatre

Founded in Rochester, NY in 2000 by husband-and-wife team, Darren and Heather Stevenson, out of a desire to “push” the boundaries of conventional theatre, PUSH has since earned an international reputation as one of the world’s leading physical theatre companies. In addition to being the Season One finalist on TruTV’s national series *Fake Off*, PUSH has been featured in acclaimed collaborations with the Grammy-winning Ying Quartet, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Pulitzer Prize-nominated composer Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon, and transgender artist Penny Sterling. These masters of physical theatre also produce their own full-length works, including *PUSH’s Dracula*, *Arc of Ages*, *Generic Male*, and *HYDE*. Many shorter works include “Flight 1549,” set to the audiotope of the miraculous airplane landing in the Hudson River; and “-abled,” an exploration of addiction. Heather’s touching look at the elderly in “The Visit” is a thought-provoking counterpoint to Darren’s powerful take on war in “The Soldier.” A grant from the Farash Foundation enabled collaboration with RIT’s National Institute for the Deaf to create “Red Ball,” a study of the real and virtual worlds using iPad technology. PUSH has been recognized for service to its community through the Rochester Community Foundation’s 2023 Ames-Amzalak Award for Nonprofit Excellence, University of Rochester’s Lillian Fairchild Award, Performing Artist of the Year Award from the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester, and the “Community of Color” Black History Month Anton Germano Dance Award.

The acclaimed company engages underserved populations, providing workshops for children with disabilities, adults in senior facilities, and more. They also run an annual summer intensive for adults that attracts students from all over the world.

Funding for *Generic Male* has been provided by the New York State Council on the Arts, the Rochester Area Community Foundation, and the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts.

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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