

Geva
THEATRE

25/26

Student Matinee Series

THE **PLAY**
THAT GOES
WRONG

A
Christmas
Carol

THE **WOMAN**
IN **BLACK**

Neil Simon's
Barefoot
in the **Park**

Anastasia
THE 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.
- **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.



"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 Monday, August 18th, 2025 at 8am.**
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 19th and 21st preview performances of *A Christmas Carol*, which are \$20 per ticket).
- One (1) complimentary chaperone ticket is included for every 10 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 1:30pm (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 Jr.

"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."

**THE PLAY
THAT GOES
WRONG***Play that Goes Wrong*By **HENRY LEWIS, JONATHAN SAYER & HENRY SHIELDS**Co-production with **INDIANA REPERTORY THEATRE**Directed by **BENJAMIN HANNA****Dates:** Tuesday, September 30th at 10:30am**Open to grades 5-12**

Synopsis: 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!

Topics for Exploration: *Topics for Exploration: Basics of Theatre • Theatre and Tech Design • Elements of a Story • Comedic Literary Devices • Frame Narratives*

Content Disclosure: Mild innuendos and moments of mild comic peril.

New York State Learning Standards for *The Play that Goes Wrong*:

<https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/The-Play-That-Goes-Wrong-NYS-Education-Standards-Alignment.pdf>



Samantha Gershman and Cassie Murphy in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*.



Kalani Queypo and Derek Garza in *Pure Native*. Photos by Ron Heerkens Jr.

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



A Christmas Carol

By **CHARLES DICKENS**

Adapted by **HARRISON DAVID RIVERS**

Directed by **ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON**

Remount directed by **JASMINE B. GUNTER**

Dates: November 19 and 21, and December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, and 17
at 10:30am

Open to grades K-12

Ticket Price:

- \$20.00/ticket for November 19 & November 21
Please note: *The first two Student Matinee dates of A Christmas Carol will occur during Previews, at a reduced cost. 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/2025/06/A-Christmas-Carol-NYS-Education-Standards.docx.pdf>

"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."



The Woman in Black

By **SUSAN HILL**

Adapted by **STEPHEN MALLATRATT**

Produced by **PW PRODUCTIONS**

Directed by **ROBIN HERFERD**

Dates: January 28th & February 5th at 10:30am

Open to grades 6-12

Synopsis: 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.

Topics for Exploration: *Elements of a Story • Literary Devices in the Mystery Genre • Elements of Victorian Literary Style • Grief • Frame Narratives • Theatrical and Tech Design • Magical Realism • Gothic Horror • Supernatural • Psychological Horror & Suspense • Place-Based Storytelling*

Content Disclosure: This production contains smoke and fog effects, frightening moments, and non-graphic discussions of death, including implied child death.

New York State Learning Standards for *The Woman in Black*:

<https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/The-Woman-In-Black-NYS-Education-Standards-Alignment-.pdf>



Barefoot in the Park

By **NEIL SIMON**

Directed by **RACHEL ALDERMAN**

Dates: March 4th & March 11th at 10:30am

Open to grades 8-12

Synopsis: 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.

Topics for Exploration: *Love and Relationships • Cohabitation • Coming of Age • Living in Community • Navigating Conflict • Communication Challenges • Gender Differences • Generational Differences • Trust • Connection • Marriage • Mental Health*

Content Disclosure: This production contains mild to moderate innuendos and comedic non-graphic discussions of off-screen intimacy.

New York State Learning Standards for *Barefoot in the Park*:

<https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Barefoot-In-The-Park-NYS-Education-Standards-Alignment.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!"



Anastasia

Book by **TERRENCE MCNALLY** | Music by **STEPHEN FLAHERTY**
 Lyrics by **LYNN AHRENS** | Inspired by the Twentieth Century Fox Motion
 Pictures | Pictures by special arrangement with **BUENA VISTA THEATRICAL**
 From the play by **MARCELLE MAURETTE** as adapted by **GUY BOLTON**
 Directed by **ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON**

Dates: Thursday, June 11th at 10:30am **Open to grades 4-12**

Synopsis: 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?

Topics for Exploration: European History 1900-1930 • The Search for Family • Class Differences • Identity • Trust and Betrayal • Memory • Belonging • Heritage

Content Disclosure: This play contains scenes of mild peril, smoke and fog effects, mild body horror, and some frightening moments.

New York State Learning Standards for Anastasia: <https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Anastasia-NYS-Education-Standards-Alignment.pdf>



The cast of *The Color Purple*.
Photo by Ron Heerkens Jr.



"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. 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."