

GEVA THEATRE PRESENTS *SANCOCHO*

A stirring story of two sisters, one recipe, and family truths

On Stage October 14 – November 23, 2025

Rochester, N.Y. — **Christin Eve Cato's *Sancocho*** explores family secrets, generational divides, and the healing that can only come from a meal made with love. 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.

A review from *The New York Times* shared, "Heavily seasoned... *Sancocho*, with the stew as its central metaphor, is a meditation on inheritance and family, how its members might eat and celebrate together, but suffer apart." **Rebecca Martinez** returns to Geva to direct this production, having previously directed *Somewhere Over the Border* in 2022. *Sancocho* runs on the Fielding Stage October 14 – November 23, 2025. Tickets are on sale now; visit GevaTheatre.org or call the Box Office at 585-232-4382.

"Christin Eve Cato was here as dramaturg for *Somewhere* three years ago, and we're so thrilled to have her back with her beautiful play *Sancocho*, directed by Rebecca Martinez," said Artistic Director Elizabeth Williamson. "Sancocho is meant to be shared, and we are so grateful to be working with Annette Ramos, everyone at IBERO, Chef La Flaca and more on a number of events here at Geva and around Rochester where we'll all be able to share both Christin's beautiful story and some wonderful stew!"

The Cast:

Ashley Alvarez (she/her), as Renata, is a Cuban-American actress and screenwriter. Theater credits include: *Derecho* (La Jolla Playhouse), *The Cubans* (Miami New Drama), *Anna in the Tropics* (Colorado Springs Fine Arts), and *Sweet Goats and Blueberry Señoritas* (Portland Stage). She's an avid collaborator in new play development, appearing in works at New York Theatre Workshop, Williamstown Theatre Festival, LAByrinth, Women's Project, and INTAR. TV credits: *Search Party* (HBO), *Law & Order* (NBC), and *Law & Order SVU* (NBC). She co-wrote and stars in *Crabs in a Barrel*, which won the HBO Latinx Short Film Competition and is streaming on HBO MAX. She's a 2022 Sundance Screenwriting Fellow, recipient of the Sundance Comedy & Latine Fellowship, and currently developing the feature version of *Crabs in a Barrel*, supported by the Sundance Institute. All my love to my creative partner & life partner Michael León.

Cindy Peralta (she/they), playing Caridad, was born and raised in NYC. An Afro-Taina writer, playwright, and actor descended from the Dominican Republic, has been writing and acting since the age of 19. She began her career as a Spoken Word Artist at the age of 25. Shortly

after she became a mother of two. Since then, she continued to explore the world of acting by starting with small roles in short films such as *Mangú Aquí 2* and *Toda La Verdad* by age 40. From those humble beginnings, she has worked her way up to multiple staged readings such as *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Marco Antonio Rodriguez at the Goodman Theatre in San Diego, starring as La Inca. Also, a lead role such as the critically acclaimed Off Broadway show *Vámonos* that debuted at INTAR Theatre in 2023, starring as Juana the matriarch. Nominated Best Actress in a Play 2019 (Broadway NJ) for playing 2 distinguishing roles simultaneously.

The Creative Team:

Along with **Rebecca Martinez** (she/her; *Somewhere Over the Border*, Geva Theatre and Syracuse Stage; Fulton Theatre, LatinX Playwrights Circle / Sol Project / WP Theater), the creative team includes Scenic Design by **Raul Abrego** (he/him; The Juilliard Opera Center, The Manhattan School of Music, Cherry Lane Theater), Costume Design by **Harry Nadal** (he/him; Lincoln Center Institute, Juilliard, Hartford Stage), Lighting Design by **Carolina Ortiz Herrera** (she/her; Two River Theatre, Playmakers Repertory, Dallas Theatre Center), and Sound Design & Composition by **Julián Mesri** (he/him; *Somewhere Over the Border*, Geva Theatre and Syracuse Stage; Public Theater, The Old Globe, Stages Theater), with Culinary Consultants **Chef La Flaca, Madelin Castillo & Wilson Castillo** and Cultural Consultant **Annette Ramos**. **Charles K. Bayang** (he/him) is the Production Stage Manager with Production Assistant **Meghan Clark**. Casting by Calleri Jensen Davis.

Geva's 53rd Season is sponsored by ESL Federal Credit Union with Honorary Season Producer Dr. Dawn Lipson. *Sancocho* is presented with support from Media Sponsor WXXI. Geva's Official Storage Space Sponsor is Buckingham Properties and Official Vehicle Sponsor is Vision Automotive.

Related Events:

Sunday Salons - Patrons are invited to stay in the theater following select performances for a live talkback facilitated by Geva Theatre's staff. This engaging, behind-the-scenes conversation is free to attend and gives the audience a unique chance to ask questions about the production. Cast members may join the discussion as they are able.

Sunday, October 26 – Post-2:00pm Performance

Sunday, November 9 – Post-2:00pm Performance (Latine Affinity Performance)

Prologue – Patrons are welcome to join a Geva staff member in the theatre an hour before the show on select nights for exclusive insights and behind-the-scenes stories. Tune in to Geva's [YouTube Channel](#) closer to the opening date of this show for a recording of the Prologue.

Geva Insights – Patrons are encouraged to stay post-show for conversations with experts and community voices, presented by Geva’s Literary department, as an opportunity to dive deeper into the themes of the production.

Saturday, November 1 – Post 3:00pm Performance

Mondays at Geva – Chef La Flaca, *Sancocho*’s Culinary Consultants, will be doing a live cooking demonstration for this event. Our lobby will be filled with the aromas of Caribbean cooking as Chefs Madelin Castillo and Wilson Castillo share the history and preparation of certain vegetables as well as culinary tips and tricks. This is a free-to-the-public event.

Monday, November 10 – 6pm

Latin American Festival at the International Plaza – Food, Music, and Theater Unite!
Sunday, October 5, 2025 | 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM | International Plaza, Rochester, NY

The International Plaza invites the community to celebrate the rich traditions and flavors of Latin America at the **Latin American Festival**. This vibrant event brings together **food, music, and theater** for an afternoon that showcases the diversity and creativity of Latin culture.

Highlights of the festival include a special preview performance of **Geva Theatre’s upcoming play *Sancocho*** and a **Sancocho Cook-Off**, where chefs and community groups from across Latin America will present their own unique versions of the traditional dish.

“This event is a true celebration of community, bringing together the arts, food, and traditions that make Latin America so special,” said Jason Barber International Plaza Site Manager. “We’re thrilled to partner with Geva Theatre to highlight both the flavors and the stories that connect us.”

The Latin American Festival is **free and open to the public**. Families are encouraged to attend and bring their appetites for this unforgettable cultural experience.

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with Farmhouse Table Midtown

The City of Rochester’s Hispanic Heritage Committee is proud to present the *Hispanic Heritage Month Brunch Series at The Farmhouse Midtown Café, 90 S. Clinton Ave., Sundays through October 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.* Organized by Adrian Franco, Cultural Curator of the Hispanic Heritage Committee, the series pairs food, music, dance, and art in celebration of Latino culture.

This year’s national theme, “Collective Heritage: Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future,” guides the series, celebrating the traditions of Hispanic and Latin communities while uplifting creativity and achievements that inspire future generations.

Upcoming Brunches:

Sept. 28 – RitmoAFRO Brunch: Afro rhythms and a free kizomba lesson with Tin Man & Brianna (2–3 p.m.).

Oct. 5 – Salsa Roots / Sancocho Sunday in collaboration with Geva Theatre: traditional sancocho prepared by Chef La Flaca, Geva’s culinary consultants for Christin Eve Cato’s *Sancocho*, drumming workshop, salsa lesson with Suave Salsero, a classic car display, and live music al performance by Andeal.

All bar gratuities from the Brunch Series will benefit **Rochester Hope**, a nonprofit that provides food, clothing, and essential wraparound services for Rochester families while fostering mentorship, education, and neighborhood partnerships.

“These brunches are about more than food — they’re about storytelling, heritage, and bringing people together,” said Adrian Franco. “We want each Sunday to be an experience that celebrates our collective history while inspiring future generations.”

Accessible Performances

Sign Interpreted (ASL)

- Thursday 10/30 – 7:30pm
- Thursday 11/13 – 7:30pm

Audio Described

- Sunday 11/2 – 2:00pm

Open Captioning

- Saturday 10/18 – 2:00pm
- Wednesday 10/29 – 2:00pm
- Wednesday 10/29 – 7:30pm
- Wednesday 11/12 – 2:00pm
- Wednesday 11/12 – 7:30pm
- Saturday 11/22 – 3:00pm

Learn more about Geva’s accessibility options [here](#).

Ticket and Performance Information

When: October 14 – November 23, 2025

Where: On the Fielding Stage, 75 Woodbury Boulevard, Rochester, New York 14607

To Purchase: Single tickets are \$48 and may be purchased through the Box Office by calling 585-232-4382, visiting in-person, or online at GevaTheatre.org. Discounted tickets are available for groups of 10+, to purchase call 585-420-2090. *All prices, dates, and times are subject to change.*

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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