



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 13, 2026

Media Contact: Sarah Haley

shaley@gevatheatre.org

THE WOMAN IN BLACK COMES TO GEVA THEATRE

The West End's Longest-Running Ghost Story

On Stage January 15 – February 8, 2026

Rochester, N.Y. — 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. In this *New York Times* Critic's Pick, 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.

Named "One of British theatre's biggest – and scariest – hits," by *The Guardian* and "...A marvelous exercise in spine tingling tension, spun from perfectly paced storytelling and stagecraft," by *The Independent*, *The Woman in Black* runs on the Wilson Stage January 15 – February 8, 2026. Tickets are on sale now; visit GevaTheatre.org or call the Box Office at 585-232-4382.

"We're delighted to bring this thrilling production to Rochester," said Artistic Director Elizabeth Williamson. "There's nothing like a truly startling jump scare on stage, and *The Woman in Black* delivers them in spades!"

This production is produced by special arrangement with PW Productions, one of the West End's most prolific and significant theatre producers, responsible for some of the most successful productions in British theatre since it was founded in 1983. PWP, in partnership with promoters and co-producers, has also presented work in Japan, Singapore, Canada, USA, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Austria, Australia and Hong Kong. *The Woman in Black* which has been touring in the US since 2018.

The Cast:

DAVID ACTON (Arthur Kipps) David played Arthur Kipps in *The Woman in Black* at the Fortune Theatre in London's West End, on tour across the UK, in New York, Princeton and Phoenix. For the Royal Shakespeare Company: *Macbeth*, *The Merry Wives Of Windsor*, *Hamlet*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Constant Couple*, *The Man of Mode*, *The Love of the Nightingale*, *King Lear*, *The Winter's Tale*, *As You Like It*, *Henry V*, *Edward III*, *Eastward Ho!*, *The Roman Actor*. Theatre also includes: *The Two Popes* (Frankfurt English Theatre), *Gaslight* (The Mill at Sonning); *A Day By The Sea* (Southwark Playhouse); *Jane Wenham the Witch of Walkern* (Out of Joint); *Richard II* (Palace of Westminster and Arcola). *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Henry V* and *Twelfth Night* (Propeller); *Anjin: The Shōgun and the Samurai* (Tokyo, Osaka, Yokohama and London Sadler's Wells); *The League of Youth*, *Vertigo*, *Burial at Thebes* and *I Have Been Here Before* (Nottingham Playhouse); *Relatively Speaking* and *Copenhagen* (Newbury Watermill); *The Dark Things* (Edinburgh Traverse); *Richard II* (Old Vic Company); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Peter Hall Company); *Jason and the Argonauts*, *Sabbat* and *Peter Pan* (Lancaster Dukes); *The Man From the Sleepy Lagoon* (one-man show). TV

includes: *Call The Midwife*, *Shakespeare and Hathaway*, *Emmerdale*, *14 Diaries of the Great War*, *18 Clash of Futures*, *Doctors*, *Hostage* (Fire in the Desert), *EastEnders*, *Silent Witness*, *Passage*, *Hollyoaks*, *Tchaikovsky*, *The Bill*, *Blair on Trial*, *Class of '76*, *Casanova's Love Letters*, *Fooling Hitler*, *The Wyvern Mystery*, *Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased)*, *Casualty*. Film includes: *The Squadron*, *For Grace*, *After Death*, *Volume*, *Persuasion*. He has been a member of the BBC Radio Drama Company.

JAMES BYNG (The Actor) Theatre includes: *The Woman in Black* (Fortune Theatre, West End), *Once Upon a Christmas* (Kingswood House), *Dr Who: Time Fracture* (London), *Casino Royale* (Secret Cinema London & Shanghai), *Romeo + Juliet* (Secret Cinema), *Moulin Rouge!* (Secret Cinema), *Noël* (National Opera House, Ireland), *Philip Pullman's Grimm Tales* (Bargehouse, London), *Dr. Strangelove* (Secret Cinema), *Philip Pullman's Grimm Tales* (Shoreditch Town Hall), *Carrie's War* (Novel Productions UK Tour), *The History Boys* (Leeds Playhouse/Theatre Royal Bath UK Tour), *The Lord of the Rings* (Theatre Royal Drury Lane, West End), *Peter Pan: A Musical Adventure* (Leeds Playhouse), *Les Misérables* (Palace Theatre, West End), *Oliver!* (London Palladium, West End), *Hey! Mr. Producer* (Lyceum, West End), *Oliver!* (Theatre Royal Plymouth). Television & Film includes: *Patterns* (Amazon Prime), *Frenemies*, *Goodbye Mr. Chips* (ITV), *The Bike Thief*, *The Shot*, *Rupert Brockstein's Blood Red Letters*, *A Leonard Cohen Afterworld*, *Potholing*, *Driving Through Snow*, *Harry's Big Decision*, *Party Rings*, *The Paper Round*. Radio includes: "Over & Out" (Dir. Toryn Westcott). Cast recordings include: "Noël" (Original Cast Recording), "Peter Pan: A Musical Adventure", "Hey! Mr. Producer", "The Lord of the Rings" (Original London Cast Recording).

BEN PORTER (Arthur Kipps/The Actor) Ben is proud to be the first ever actor to play both roles in *The Woman in Black*. He was nominated for a Drama League Award for Distinguished Performance in New York in 2020 for this production of *The Woman in Black*. Highlights from theatre includes: For the National Theatre: *The Invention of Love*, *The Heiress*, *An Enemy of the People* (also the Ahmanson Theatre Los Angeles). *1984* (West End/US Tour/Melbourne), *The Indian Queen* (Opera de Lille, France), *Beckett* and *What the Butler Saw* (West End), *Bedroom Farce*, *Ten Times Table* and *Improbable Fiction* (The Mill at Sonning Theatre), *The Tempest* (Liverpool Playhouse), *Boeing Boeing* (Manchester Theatre Award nominee for Best Supporting Actor), *Orwell: A Celebration* (Trafalgar Studios), *Edward II* (Sheffield Crucible), *Disposing Of The Body* (Hampstead Theatre), *Restoration* (Salisbury Playhouse), *Losing Louis* (UK Tour), *Bedroom Farce* (UK Tour), *Noises Off*, *Little Hotel On The Side* and *Rookery Nook* (Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh), *Happy Yet* (Gate Theatre), *Silence* (Arcola), *The Atheist* (Theatre 503), *In Pursuit Of The English* and *Hangover Square* (Lyric Hammersmith), *Romeo And Juliet* (Southwark Playhouse), *Hamlet* and *Cyrano De Bergerac* (Greenwich Playhouse), *Macbeth* and *School For Wives* (English Touring Theatre), *Victory* (Paris), *Bodies* (Live Theatre, Newcastle), *Doctor Faustus*, *Frankenstein*, *Sauce For The Goose* and *On The Razzle* (Nuffield Theatre, Southampton). Ben has also worked extensively with Alan Ayckbourn at the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough: including *Time of My Life*, *Absurd Person Singular*, *Communicating Doors*, and *Arrivals and Departures*, (also 59E59 New York). TV includes: *Survival of the Fittest*, *Manchild*, *Casualty*, *The Bill*, *Westbeach*, *Covington Cross*, *Crossroads*, *Side By Side*, *Hot Stuff*. Film credits include: *The Circle: Awakening*, *Rupert*, *Rupert and Rupert*, *School for Seduction*, *Young Blades*.

The Creative Team:

Adapted for the stage by **Stephen Mallatratt**, *The Woman in Black* creative team brings together the talents of Director **Robin Herford**, Tour Director **Antony Eden**, Associate Director **Magdalene Spanuello**, Designer **Michael Holt**, Lighting Designer **Anshuman Bhatia**, Sound

Designer **Sebastian Frost**, Vision Productions by **Imogen Finlayson**, Stage Manager **Kayleigh Laymon**, and Company Stage Manager **Neill Hillyer**.

Geva's 53rd Season is sponsored by ESL Federal Credit Union with Honorary Season Producer Dr. Dawn Lipson. *The Woman in Black* is presented with support from Media Sponsors Spectrum Reach and 98.9 The Buzz. 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, January 25 – Post-2:00pm Performance
Sunday, February 8 – Post-2:00pm 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. The prologue schedule can be found [here](#).

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, January 31 – Post 3:00pm Performance

Accessible Performances

Sign Interpreted (ASL)

- Thursday 2/5 – 7:30pm

Audio Described

- Sunday 2/1 – 2:00pm

Open Captioning

- Saturday 1/17 – 2:00pm
- Wednesday 2/4 – 2:00pm
- Wednesday 2/4 – 7:30pm

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

Ticket and Performance Information

When: January 14 – February 8, 2026

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

To Purchase: Single tickets start at \$30 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, Instagram: @gevatheatre, LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/geva-theatre-center.

END