

**GEVA THEATRE PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF  
*BARON VAUGHN: CYCLE BREAKER*  
On Stage April 28 – June 7, 2026**

**Rochester, N.Y.** — Geva presents the **world premiere of *Baron Vaughn: Cycle Breaker***, written and performed by Geva’s 2023–2025 Artist in Residence **Baron Vaughn**, known for his work on tv shows such as *Grace and Frankie* & *Mystery Science Theater 3000*, on Broadway and as a stand-up comedian.

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.

Vaughn has been a vital part of Geva’s programming for the past three seasons. As an Artist in Residence, he contributed to the company’s curation and leadership teams while developing this commissioned piece. During the 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons, he performed in and curated the comedy series *The Work Out Room*, creating a space to workshop material and laying the groundwork for what would become *Cycle Breaker*.

Geva is partnering with the Frederick Douglass Institute and Department of Black Studies at the University of Rochester on a series of post-show conversations around *Cycle Breaker* and *Furloughs Paradise*, and Artist Adam Eaton’s exhibit “Black is Beautiful” will be on display in the lobby throughout the show.

*Baron Vaughn: Cycle Breaker* is directed by **Evren Odcikin** and runs on the Fielding Stage April 28 – June 7, 2026. Tickets are on sale now; visit [GevaTheatre.org](https://GevaTheatre.org) or call the Box Office at 585-232-4382.

“It is such a joy to be bringing Baron’s beautiful solo show to the stage, with this great artistic team,” said Artistic Director Elizabeth Williamson. “Dramaturg Fiona Kyle has been with the show from its earliest versions, and it’s wonderful to have former Oregon Shakespeare Festival Interim Artistic Director Evren Odcikin, and an all-star design team: lighting designer Xavier Pierce and costume designer Jarrod Barnes were last at Geva for *How I Learned What I Learned*, and we’re delighted to welcome sound designer Brandon Woolcott and scenic designer Tanya Orellana.”

## The Cast:

**Baron Vaughn** is a force to be reckoned with in the world of entertainment. With a career that spans live comedy, acting, and directing, Baron's talent knows no bounds. As an actor, he's best known as "Bud", sharing the screen with Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin on the longest-running hit Netflix series, *Grace & Frankie*. Baron lends his voice as "Tom Servo" in the recent seasons of cult-hit, *Mystery Science Theater 3000*. He's also a creative force behind the scenes, co-creating and co-hosting the groundbreaking Comedy Central showcase variety series *The New Negroes* with Open Mike Eagle. The show shined a light on both established and rising Black artists in comedy and music. In 2020, Baron continued to push boundaries with *Call & Response*, a limited series produced by Blavity and Funny or Die. Together with frequent collaborator Open Mike Eagle, he tackled the most pressing issues of the day in a series that was both thought-provoking and hilarious. Baron's deeply personal project *Fatherless*, directed by the award-winning Dawn Porter, explores the impact of absent fathers on families and communities while he also endeavored to finally connect with his own absent father. As a stand-up comedian, Baron has been entertaining audiences for more than 20 years. He has two influential comedy recordings, *Raised by Cable* and *Blaxistential Crisis*, both available for streaming on all platforms. Baron's been showcased on Comedy Central's *The Half Hour* and *The Meltdown* with Jonah and Kumail, as well as on HBO's *2 Dope Queens*, Showtime's *SXSW Comedy*, and TBS' *Conan*. His comedic talents also shine as the host of Syfy Wire's comedy panel/game show *The Great Debate* (SYFY). Baron's headlining performances at major clubs and colleges throughout the US have led him to perform at renowned festivals including *Just for Laughs* (Montreal & Vancouver), *Life Is Beautiful* (Las Vegas), and the *New York Comedy Festival*. Together with Open Mike Eagle, Baron has taken the live version of their hit showcase *The New Negroes* on tour to numerous festivals, clubs, and theaters across the country. Baron has punched-up shows produced by IFC and Dreamworks, was selected for the inaugural 2016 Sundance New Voices Lab, and of course, wrote on both *The New Negroes* and *MST3K*. Baron's directorial debut, the short film *So Much To Do* featuring Toni Trucks, can be seen in the horror anthology, *Scare Package*, on Shudder. Baron holds a BFA in Acting from Boston University.

## The Creative Team:

Along with Director **Evren Odcikin** (he/him; Soho Rep, PlayCo, OSF, Alley Theatre, Guthrie Theater, Northern Stage), the rest of the creative team includes Scenic Designer **Tanya Orellana** (she/her; Arena Stage, Berkeley, REP, Huntington, The Guthrie), Costume Designer **Jarrold Barnes** (he/him; Geva: *August Wilson's How I Learned What I Learned*, *The Color Purple*), Lighting Designer **Xavier Pierce** (Geva: *How I Learned What I Learned*, Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Public Theatre, Guthrie Theatre, McCarter Theatre Center), Sound Designer & Composer **Brandon Wolcott** (he/him; BAM, The Public Theater, Lincoln Center, Park Avenue Armory, The Shed, Mass Moca), Dramaturg **Fiona Kyle** (she/her; Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Geva Theatre, Hartford Stage, Dallas Theatre Center). **Charles K. Bayang** (he/him) is the Production Stage Manager with Production Assistant **Meghan Clark**.

Geva's 53rd Season is sponsored by ESL Federal Credit Union with Honorary Season Producer Dr. Dawn Lipson. *Baron Vaughn: Cycle Breaker* is presented with support from Lead Producer Eileen Amy Ryan Charitable Fund and Media Sponsors 13WHAM and 103.9 WDKX. Geva's Official Storage Space Sponsor is Buckingham Properties and Official Vehicle Sponsor is Vision Automotive. This production is made possible with support from the Rochester Area Community Foundation.

## Related Events:

### **Black Out Affinity Performance:** Sunday, May 24, 2pm Performance

- Following the 2pm performance, a discussion will take place around navigating parenthood with actor Johnathan Nthkethka (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3359124/>). Celebrate this powerful production through an afternoon of affinity where we hope to provide a welcoming space for Black audience members and performers to enjoy this performance together. Non-Black-identifying patrons are welcome to attend.

**Talkbacks:** Presented in partnership with Black Studies and the Frederick Douglass Institute at the University of Rochester, free and open to the public. Talkbacks are free to attend; tickets are required to attend the performance.

- Sunday, May 10, following the 2pm Matinee of *Furlough's Paradise*
  - o A discussion paired with both *Furlough's Paradise* and *Baron Vaughn: Cycle Breaker*, led by Resident Director/Associate Producer Jasmine B. Gunter.
- Saturday, May 16, following the 3pm Matinee of *Baron Vaughn: Cycle Breaker*
  - o Visit [GevaTheatre.org](http://GevaTheatre.org) for more information.

### ***Black is Beautiful: Adam Eaton Art Exhibition***

Adam Eaton's artwork will be Presented at Geva Theatre and in The Library Link Gallery located at the Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County (115 South Ave, Rochester, NY 14604). This exhibit will be on display in Geva's lobby from now through June 7, 2026 and can be viewed by the public any time the Geva Box Office is open. Hours are listed at the top of Geva's website. *Black Is Beautiful* is a fine art portrait photography exhibition by Adam Eaton, created to honor the beauty, dignity, and humanity of Black people. Rooted in community and visual storytelling, this exhibition invites viewers to slow down, reflect, and experience Black beauty celebrated across two locations in Rochester. More information about the artist: [adameaton.com/about](http://adameaton.com/about)

**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](#).

## **Accessible Performances**

### **Sign Interpreted (ASL)**

- Thursday 5/14 – 7:30pm
- Thursday 5/28 – 7:30pm

### **Audio Described**

- Sunday 5/17 – 2:00pm

### **Open Captioning**

- Saturday 5/2 – 2:00pm
- Wednesday 5/27 – 2:00pm
- Wednesday 5/27 – 7:30pm
- Wednesday 6/3 – 2:00pm
- Wednesday 6/3 – 7:30pm

- Saturday 6/6 – 2:00pm

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

### **Ticket and Performance Information**

**When:** April 28 – June 7, 2026

**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](http://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 Onon-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](http://GevaTheatre.org) or by connecting with us on social media. Facebook: [facebook.com/gevatheatrecenter](https://facebook.com/gevatheatrecenter), Twitter: [@gevatheatre](https://twitter.com/gevatheatre), Instagram: [@gevatheatre](https://instagram.com/gevatheatre), LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/geva-theatre-center](https://linkedin.com/company/geva-theatre-center).

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