

Geva
THEATRE

26/27

Student Matinee
Series

A CHORUS
LINE

♠♥
TOPDOG/
UNDERDOG

ESL
PRESENTS
A Christmas
Carol

PATRICK PAGE
ALL THE DEVILS
ARE HERE
HOW SHAKESPEARE INVENTED THE VILLAIN

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!
Million Dollar
** Quartet **

Laughs
in Spanish

THE
DA VINCI
CODE

About Geva Theatre's Student Matinee Series:

Every year, Geva Theatre carefully selects the productions we most want to share with student audiences through our Student Matinee Series. Research continues to show that arts education – and theatre education specifically – has a powerful impact on student success both inside and outside the classroom. Students engaged in the arts demonstrate stronger reading comprehension, increased critical thinking skills, improved communication and collaboration, and higher levels of empathy and social-emotional growth. Studies have also linked sustained arts participation to higher attendance rates, increased civic engagement, stronger standardized test performance, and higher high school graduation and college enrollment rates. Theatre encourages students to think creatively, solve problems collaboratively, build confidence, and connect deeply with literature, history, culture, and one another.

For many students, live theatre can become a gateway to learning across disciplines – strengthening literacy skills, supporting historical and cultural understanding, encouraging public speaking, and helping students develop the confidence to share their own voices and ideas.

At Geva, students and educators alike are invited to explore each play from the inside out. Experience the vibrant detail of a fully staged production and the expressive power of ideas brought to life by incredible artists. Then continue the conversation with those very artists during a post-show talkback experience at the theatre.

When you make a Student Matinee reservation, you're choosing more than a ticket – you're choosing a complete educational journey that inspires curiosity, connection, creativity, and lifelong learning!

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). A night out on us! (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 are available and ASL interpreted performances are also offered upon request.



“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 and on our [website](#).**
- **Reservations will be accepted beginning on Monday, August 27th, 2026 at 10am.**
- All student matinee tickets are \$22 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 1-1:30pm (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
Lisk Morris Foundation
ESL Charitable Foundation
Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation
Joseph & Irene Skalny Charitable Trust
Donald F. & Maxine B. Davison Foundation
John F. Wegman Fund of
Rochester Area Community Foundation
J. M. McDonald Foundation
Rubens Family Foundation
Robert and Susan Touhsaent
Richard & Joan Fenton
Elizabeth Rennert
Cornell/Weinstein Family Foundation
Dr. Tomás C. Hernandez & Dr. Keith S. Reas
Kathleen and Alfred Laitenberger
Ames Amzalak Charitable Trust



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.”

BRING GEVA THEATRE TO YOUR SCHOOL!

🎭 CREATIVE LEARNING. STUDENT VOICE. PROFESSIONAL THEATRE ARTISTS IN YOUR CLASSROOM. 🎭

Geva's In School Theatre Residency Program

Did You Know?

Less than **4% of students in the Rochester City School District currently have access to a certified theatre teacher** — and many surrounding suburban schools face similar gaps in arts education.

That's where Geva Theatre comes in.

Our In-School Theatre Residencies bring dynamic, hands-on arts learning directly into classrooms through engaging theatre experiences connected to your curriculum.



🌟 Why Theatre?

Because **students learn best when** they are:

- 🗣️ **Speaking**
- 🎬 **Creating**
- 📖 **Exploring stories**
- 🤝 **Collaborating**
- 💡 **Thinking creatively**
- ❤️ **Building confidence**

Theatre education supports:

- Literacy & comprehension
- Public speaking & communication
- Social-emotional learning
- Critical thinking
- Collaboration & teamwork
- Creativity & self-expression

And most importantly — it helps students discover their voice.

🎭 What does a Geva Residency look like?

Geva residencies range from **6–20 weeks** and are led by professional teaching artists and **New York State Certified K–12 teachers** who lead Geva's Education & Connectivity Department.

Working alongside classroom teachers, Geva artists integrate theatre directly into classroom learning through:

- Scripts & storytelling
- Creative writing
- Movement & performance
- Text analysis
- Character exploration
- Collaborative rehearsal

Students don't just read stories — they bring them to life.

One current pilot residency connects theatre arts with college-level Introduction to Literature coursework through a dual enrollment partnership connected to Monroe Community College. Students use short stories and scripts as inspiration to create and perform original work of their own.

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🌟 What's Included?

Each residency can include:

- ✔️ Two professional teaching artists
- ✔️ Curriculum-connected lessons
- ✔️ Standards-aligned learning
- ✔️ Culturally responsive teaching practices
- ✔️ Classroom collaboration with educators
- ✔️ A culminating student showcase or sharing

Programs are customizable for:

- Elementary, middle, or high school
- English Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Creative Writing
- SEL initiatives
- After-school enrichment
- Student leadership & ensemble building

🎉 Big Dreams Ahead

With future funding support, Geva hopes to expand residency experiences to include:

- 🎭 Student performances on the stage at Geva Theatre
- 🚌 Theatre field trips
- 🌟 A Young People's Theatre Festival
- 🎬 Teen Ensemble opportunities
- 🎤 Long-term artistic pathways for Rochester-area students

📞 Ready to Bring Geva to Your School?

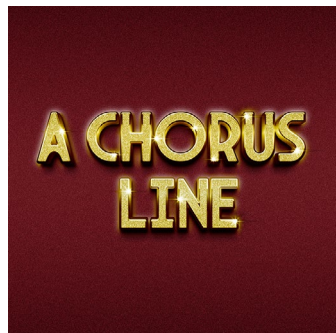
Contact **Jacqueline Raymond Wegman**

✉️ jwegman@gevatheatre.org

Fill out the residency interest form or contact **Jacqueline Raymond Wegman** in Connectivity to schedule a meeting and discuss how to bring a residency to your school!

📞 585-420-2052





A Chorus Line WILSON STAGE

Conceived and Originally Directed and Choreographed by **MICHAEL BENNETT**
 Book by **JAMES KIRKWOOD AND NICHOLAS DANTE**
 Music by **MARVIN HAMLISCH**
 Lyrics by **EDWARD KLEBAN**
 Co-Choreographed by **BOB AVIAN**

Directed by **ALAN PAUL**
 Choreography by **PARKER ESSE**
 Music Direction by **HELEN GREGORY**
 A Co-Production with **BARRINGTON STAGE COMPANY**



Dates: Wednesday, September 30th at 10:30am
Open to grades 6-12

Synopsis: The Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning singular sensation is back for its 50th Anniversary! *A Chorus Line* takes you inside the high stakes drama and powerhouse dancing of a Broadway chorus audition, where two dozen professional dancers share their stories and ambitions as they vie to be cast. But which of them has what it takes? Find out in this toe tapping musical featuring hit numbers such as “What I Did for Love,” “One,” and “I Hope I Get It!”

Topics for Exploration: *Identity & Self-Discovery · Dreams, Passion & Ambition · Perseverance & Resilience · Belonging & Community · Competition & Collaboration · Confidence & Vulnerability · Body Image & Self-Esteem · Finding Your Voice*

Content Disclosure: *A Chorus Line* contains mature themes and language, including discussions of sexuality, body image, mental health, family conflict, and the emotional and physical pressures of pursuing a career in the performing arts.

New York State Next Generation Learning Standards for *A Chorus Line*: <https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/NYS-Learning-Standards-A-Chorus-Line.pdf>



Topdog/Underdog FIELDING STAGE

By **SUZAN-LORI PARKS**
 Directed by **JEFFREY L. PAGE**



Dates: Wednesday, October 28th at 10:30am
Open to grades 9-12

Synopsis: In Suzan-Lori Parks’ Pulitzer and Tony Award winning play, brothers Lincoln and Booth are haunted by their past and obsessed with the street con game three-card monte. A darkly comic fable named the best play of the last 30 years by *The New York Times*, *Topdog/Underdog* digs deep into brotherly love, a sibling rivalry foretold by the names their father gave the brothers as a joke, and the long game of American History, as it asks: can we ever change the cards we’re dealt?

Topics for Exploration: *Brotherhood & Family Dynamics · Identity & Self-Worth · Power, Competition & Survival · The American Dream · Race & Systemic Inequality · Performance & Masks · Cycles of Poverty & Generational Trauma · Trust, Betrayal & Manipulation · Chance, Gambling & Risk · Masculinity & Emotional Expression*

Content Disclosure: contains mature themes including racial and economic inequality, family conflict, emotional and psychological abuse, violence, strong language, and depictions of gambling and survival-driven behavior.

New York State Next Generation Learning Standards for *Topdog/Underdog*: https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/NYS-Learning-Standards-TopDog_UnderDog.pdf

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



A Christmas Carol WILSON STAGE

By CHARLES DICKENS
 Adapted by HARRISON DAVID RIVERS
 Directed by ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON
 Remount directed by JASMINE B. GUNTER



Dates: November 20, and December 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 15, and 16 at 10:30am
 Open to grades K-12

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/2026/05/NYS-Learning-Standards-A-Christmas-Carol.pdf>



The cast of *A Christmas Carol*.
 Photo by Ron Heerkens.



“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.”



All The Devils are Here: How Shakespeare Invented the Villain WILSON STAGE

Created & Performed by PATRICK PAGE
 Directed by SIMON GODWIN
 AN OCTOPUS THEATRICALS PRODUCTION

Dates: Wednesday, January 21st at 10:30am
Open to grades 9-12



Synopsis: Hailed as “the villain of Broadway” by Playbill, Patrick Page has long been acclaimed for his portrayals of theatre’s most beloved bad guys, from Scar to Hades to the Green Goblin as well as for his roles on *The Gilded Age*, *Schmigadoon*, and *Étoile*. Now, with this tour-de-force show, he turns his focus to Shakespeare’s greatest villains. Moving swiftly through the Shakespeare canon, watch as “one of America’s greatest classical actors” (*The Wall Street Journal*) transforms into more than a dozen of the playwright’s darkest characters in this electrifying exploration of evil itself.

Topics for Exploration: *Crime, Guilt & Justice • Morality & Ethical Decision-Making • Corruption & Power Structures • Identity & Moral Ambiguity • Consequences of Choice & Accountability • Deception & Manipulation • Human Nature Under Extreme Circumstances*

Content Disclosure: contains mature themes including crime, moral ambiguity, corruption, deception, and psychological tension. The production explores ethical conflict, justice, and human behavior under pressure and may include intense situations and emotionally charged dialogue. Recommended for high school audiences with educator preparation or guidance.

New York State Next Generation Learning Standards for *All the Devils are Here*:

<https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/NYS-Learning-Standards-All-the-Devils-are-Here.pdf>



Million Dollar Quartet WILSON STAGE

Book by COLIN ESCOTT AND FLOYD MUTRUX
 Original Concept and Direction by FLOYD MUTRUX
 Inspired by ELVIS PRESLEY, JOHNNY CASH, JERRY LEE LEWIS AND CARL PERKINS
 Directed by SARAH HARTMANN

Dates: Wednesday, March 3rd at 10:30am
Open to grades 10-12



Synopsis: On December 4, 1956, four young musicians got together at Sun Records in Memphis for what would become one of the greatest jam sessions of all time. Put on your blue suede shoes and join Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash and Carl Perkins for the recording session of a lifetime. Loaded with classic rock ‘n roll hits such as “Great Balls of Fire,” “Sixteen Tons,” “I Walk the Line,” “Hound Dog” and many more

Topics for Exploration: *Birth of Rock and Roll • Music History & Cultural Change in 1950s America • Fame, Identity & Public Image • Creativity, Improvisation & Artistic Collaboration • Competition vs. Collaboration in the Arts • Influence of Gospel, Blues, Country, and Rockabilly • Youth Culture & Rebellion • Artistic Legacy & Cultural Impact • Business of Music & Industry Power • Friendship, Rivalry & Artistic Ego*

Content Disclosure: contains references to adult themes typical of the 1950s music industry, including discussions of alcohol use, cigarettes, and romantic relationships, as well as portrayals of interpersonal conflict and strong language.

New York State Next Generation Learning Standards for *Million Dollar Quartet*:

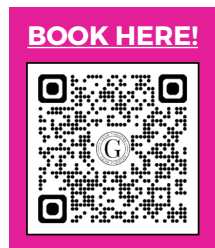
<https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/NYS-Learning-Standards-Million-Dollar-Quartet.pdf>



Laughs in Spanish FIELDING STAGE

By ALEXIS SCHEER
A Co-Production with CITY THEATRE

Dates: Wednesday, May 26th at 10:30am
Open to grades 6-12

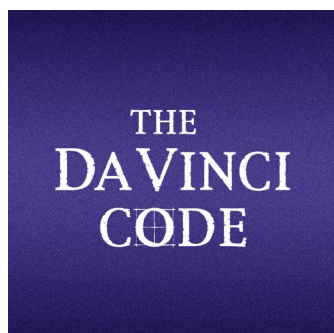


Synopsis: It's time for the international festival Art Basel, and the stakes are high for the gallery that Mariana runs in Miami. But all the art has disappeared the day of her opening, and her intern Caro—an aspiring artist herself—is acting oddly. When Mariana's glamorous movie-star mother arrives unexpectedly with an offer of help, things get even more complicado. *Laughs in Spanish* is a fast-paced comedy about art and success—and mothers and daughters.

Topics for Exploration: Art, Gallery Culture & Creative Spaces • Family Relationships & Family Expectations • Identity, Culture & Self-Expression • Community • Gender Roles & Social Expectations • Cultural Perspectives • Comedy

Content Disclosure: contains mature themes including strong language, romantic relationships, family conflict, and comedic situations involving misunderstandings and personal stress.

New York State Next Generation Learning Standards for *Laughs in Spanish*: <https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/NYS-Learning-Standards-Laughs-in-Spanish.pdf>



The Da Vinci Code WILSON STAGE

Adapted by RACHEL WAGSTAFF AND DUNCAN ABEL
Based on the Novel by DAN BROWN
Directed by ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON
A Co-Production with BERKSHIRE THEATRE GROUP

Dates: Wednesday, June 9th at 10:30am
Open to grades 6-12



Synopsis: Startled awake by a phone call in the middle of the night, Harvard Professor Robert Langdon brings all his research on symbols to bear solving a mysterious murder at the Louvre—only to learn he himself is suspected of committing it! Joined by French cryptologist Sophie Neveu, he sets out on a breathtaking race against time to solve the crime—and uncover one of the greatest conspiracies of all time. Hailed by *The New York Times* as “blockbuster perfection,” one of the best-selling books of all time comes to the stage under the direction of Geva's Artistic Director Elizabeth Williamson.

Topics for Exploration: Art • Symbols & Hidden Meaning • Codes, Clues & Problem-Solving • History, Science and Religion • Power, Institutions & Secrecy • Ethics of Knowledge & Information Control • Media Literacy & Questioning Sources

Content Disclosure: contains mature themes including violence, murder, religious and historical controversy, conspiracy theories, and brief references to sexuality and trauma. The material involves complex discussions of belief systems and institutions and is recommended for middle and high school students with educator preparation or guidance.

New York State Next Generation Learning Standards for *The Da Vinci Code*: <https://gevatheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/NYS-Learning-Standards-The-DaVinci-Code.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!”