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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GEVA THEATRE CENTER PRESENTS *OVER THE TAVERN*

*Tom Dudzick's play about life in 1950's Buffalo makes its
Rochester debut in the Geva Mainstage*

Rochester, N.Y., January 11, 2011 – From February 15 to March 13, we shuffle off to 1950's Buffalo with *Over the Tavern*, **Tom Dudzick's** autobiographical play about his childhood and growing up in his family's small apartment over his father's bar and grill.

Chet and Ellen Pazinski live in a cramped apartment above their struggling tavern, trying to raise their four teenage children at the end of the Eisenhower era. Their lives are filled with sibling rivalries, schoolgirl crushes, a strict dad, stricter nuns, spaghetti dinners and Ed Sullivan. Playwright Dudzick taps into his own Buffalo childhood with tremendous reservoirs of the heartfelt sentiment and rollicking humor that can only come from family.

Playwright Tom Dudzick is often referred to by critics as “the Catholic Neil Simon.” Debuted in 1994, *Over the Tavern* is the first in a trilogy of plays which Tom Dudzick has written about the Pazinski family. The second play, *King o' the Moon*, takes place a decade after *Over the Tavern* in the turbulent 60's, and the third play, *The Last Mass at St. Casimir's*, takes place during the infamous blizzard of '77 and completes the family saga.

Over the Tavern has broken box office records nationwide and ran for over a year in Chicago where it was hailed by Chris Jones of the *Chicago Tribune* as “one of the biggest grass-roots successes in American regional theatre of the last few years.” The play was recently adapted for Irish audiences as *Over the Pub*, premiering at Cork Arts Theatre in 2009 and remounted last year, becoming the biggest box office draw in the theatre's history.

The ensemble cast features **Arnie Mazer** as Chet Pazinski, **Celia Howard** as Sister Clarissa, **Brigitt Markusfeld** (last seen in the Geva Mainstage as Miss Shields in *A Christmas Story*) as Ellen Pazinski, and making their debuts in the Geva Mainstage, local young actors **Forrest Gertin** as Rudy, **Jesse Allis** as Eddie, **Lara Hillier** as Annie and **Andrew Rondeau** as Georgie.

The production is directed by **Skip Greer** who has directed such Geva productions as *Almost, Maine*; *Doubt*; *American Buffalo* and more. The design team includes **John Iacovelli** (Scenic Designer), **B Modern** (Costume Designer), **John Wylie** (Lighting Designer) and **Dan Roach** (Sound Designer).

Over the Tavern is co-produced by 13 WHAM TV, Max of Eastman Place and Canandaigua National Bank & Trust.

**For photos, or to arrange interviews, please contact
Dawn Kellogg, Communications Manager, (585) 232-1366 x 3059
or email: dkellogg@gevatheatre.org.**

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

PREVIEWS:

Tuesday, February 15 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday, February 16 @ 7:30pm
Thursday, February 17 @ 7:30pm
Friday, February 18 @ 8pm
Saturday, February 19 @ 2pm

OPENING NIGHT:

Saturday, February 19 @ 8pm

PERFORMANCES:

Sunday, February 20 @ 2pm and 7pm
Tuesday, February 22 @ 6pm
Wednesday, February 23 @ 7:30pm
Thursday, February 24 @ 7:30pm
Friday, February 25 @ 8pm
Saturday, February 26 @ 4pm and 8:30pm
Sunday, February 27 @ 2pm and 7pm
Tuesday, March 1 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday, March 2 @ 7:30pm
Thursday, March 3 @ 7:30pm
Friday, March 4 @ 8pm
Saturday, March 5 @ 4pm and 8:30pm
Sunday, March 6 @ 2pm (Audio-described) and 7pm
Tuesday, March 8 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday, March 9 @ 2pm and 7:30pm
Thursday, March 10 @ 7:30pm (Sign Interpreted)
Friday, March 11 @ 8pm
Saturday, March 12 @ 4pm and 8:30pm
Sunday, March 13 @ 2pm (Sunday Salon) and 7pm

TICKET PRICES:

\$22- \$59

RESERVATIONS:

(585) 232 GEVA (4382), Website: www.gevatheatre.org

LOCATION:

Geva Theatre Center, 75 Woodbury Blvd, Rochester, NY 14607

GEVA THEATRE CENTER

Geva Theatre Center is Rochester's leading professional theatre and the most attended regional theatre in New York State. Founded in 1972, Geva attracts over 160,000 patrons annually, including more than 16,000 students. The 552-seat Elaine P. Wilson Mainstage offers a wide variety of shows, from musicals to American and world classics.

The 180-seat Ron & Donna Fielding Nextstage is home to Geva's own series of cutting-edge drama, comedy and musical theatre; Geva Comedy Improv; Geva's New Play Reading Series and the Hornet's Nest - an innovative play-reading series facilitating community-wide discussion on controversial topics. The Nextstage also hosts visiting companies of both local and international renown.

Geva Theatre Center offers a wide variety of educational, outreach and literary programs, nurturing audiences and artists alike. Since 1995 the organization has been led by Artistic Director Mark Cuddy.

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