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DIVE INTO THE HORNETS' NEST AT GEVA THEATRE CENTER

*Geva's nationally recognized program of thought-provoking theatre begins
Monday, October 18.*

October 12, 2010, Rochester, N.Y. - Few experiences can ignite a great conversation like a thrilling night in the theatre. The Hornets' Nest series has theatre-goers itching for that conversation.

The Hornets' Nest series of script-in-hand readings with professional actors and directors returns with three plays investigating the most difficult and controversial questions of today. Following each reading, audience members will have the opportunity to engage in open discussion with key figures from the Rochester community.

The series opens on October 18th with ***Welcome Home, Jenny Sutter* by Julie Marie Myatt**. When U.S. Marine Jenny Sutter returns from Iraq, she lays down her rifle but isn't ready to pick up her children. How do we take care of those who put themselves in harm's way to take care of us? Why is re-entry so difficult for so many of them...and why do we sometimes look away from those most in need? The post-reading discussion will feature a panel of members from the Rochester community led by Retired Colonel Jim McDonough, President and CEO of the Veterans Outreach Center. The retired Army colonel served in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and, before becoming director of New York State's Division of Veteran Affairs, worked in the U.S. Labor Department as director of the Veterans Employment and Training Service.

Playwright **Julie Marie Myatt** was raised all over the United States and abroad, as a result of her father's military career and she currently resides in Los Angeles. *Welcome Home, Jenny Sutter* premiered at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and toured to the Kennedy Center. Her play *My Wandering Boy* premiered at South Coast Rep, and was featured in the 2007 Summer Play Festival in New York City. Her play *Boats on a River* premiered at the Guthrie Theater and her ten-minute play, *Mr. and Mrs.* premiered at the 2007 Humana Festival. Her play, *The Sex Habits of American Women*, was produced by the Guthrie Theater, Signature Theatre in Arlington, VA, and premiered at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco. She has received commissions from Cornerstone Theatre Co, The Guthrie, Denver Center

Theatre, ACT Seattle, and South Coast Rep. Ms. Myatt received a Walt Disney Studios Screenwriting Fellowship in 1992-1993, a Jerome Fellowship at the Playwrights' Center in 1999-2000, a McKnight Advancement Grant for 2001-2002, and is a participant in the Guthrie Theater New Play Project, funded by the Bush Foundation. Her other published plays include *Lift and Bang* in *30 Ten-Minute Plays by 2 Actors from Actors Theatre of Louisville* (Smith & Kraus), *What he sent* in *The Best American Short Plays 2000-2001* (Applause Books), and *Cowbird* in the new anthology *Breaking Ground* (Stage and Screen Books). Her other plays include *August is a thin girl*, *The Pink Factor*, *Alice in the Badlands*, and *49 Days to the Sun*.

The Hornets' Nest series continues with ***Nickel and Dimed*** by **Joan Holden** on January 24th. *Nickel and Dimed* explores the challenges of surviving on minimum wage and whether the average American can still access the American dream.

The series concludes in April with ***A Long Bridge over Deep Waters*** by James Still. The play explores how religion both unites and divides people in the modern world and promises to engender a fascinating and (we hope) fruitful conversation. For this reading, Geva is partnering with Nazareth College's Department of Theatre Arts and the Interfaith Council.

Play readings are at 7:00pm in the Nextstage. Tickets are free and, due to the popularity of this series, are limited to two per person. Reservations are recommended. Due to anticipated demand, all unclaimed tickets will be released at 6:45pm on the day of performance. Patron discretion is advised: plays deal with adult subject matter. To reserve tickets, phone the Box Office: (585) 232-Geva (4382) or reserve online at www.gevatheatre.org.

The Hornets' Nest. Think Theatre.

**For further information, or to arrange interviews,
contact Dawn Kellogg, Communications Manager, (585) 232 1366 x 3059.**

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; WHAT'S NEXT: Geva's New Play Reading Series and the Hornets' 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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