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## WHAT'S NEXT? Geva's *Plays in Progress* Series Features Stellar Line-up

**Rochester, N.Y., February 14, 2011** - In its 17<sup>th</sup> year, *Plays in Progress* is part of Geva Theatre Center's ongoing commitment to developing and producing new work for the American theatre. Geva Theatre Center is proud to present the spring program of its *Plays in Progress* series of new play readings.

**Monday, March 7 @ 7pm in the Nextstage:** *Natasha and the Coat* by Deborah Stein

**Worlds collide in this warm-hearted comedy when Natasha, an aspiring fashion designer, moves into a Brooklyn apartment above Mordy & Sons Dry Cleaners, and befriends Yossi, a smart but sheltered young man from a strict Hasidic family. A not-quite romance about family, history and the best way to remove stains from a good fur coat.**

**Monday, March 14 @ 7pm in the Nextstage:** *The Americans Across the Street* by Carter W. Lewis

**Derek may have won a Pulitzer for the eloquence of his prose, but he'll never win a prize for his social skills. His scotch-fueled rants at neighbors are interrupted when his estranged sister arrives with her perplexing daughter in tow. A year later, there are cupcakes, a cannon, a dead fat lady, and an all-encompassing moon. A smart comedy for those who'd like to be sentimental, but just can't hack it.**

**Monday, March 21 @ 7pm in the Nextstage:** *Lavender Scare* by Peter Duchan

**It is true that in 1920 there was a secret court charged with finding and expelling homosexuals from Harvard. It is true that fourteen men were convicted. Inspired by that history comes this compelling and eloquent tale of cultivated identity and suppressed passion.**

The plays will be presented in an informal reading format and followed by a discussion with the playwright.

**Admission to *Plays in Progress* readings is free, but reservations are required. Call the Geva Theatre Center Box Office at 585-232-Geva (4382) or reserve online at [www.gevatheatre.org](http://www.gevatheatre.org) for tickets. Play readings sell out quickly, but tickets often become available the night of the performance. **All script-in-hand performances are recommended for adult audiences.****

### DEBORAH STEIN

Deborah Stein's plays include *God Save Gertrude*, *Bone Portraits*, *The Aerodynamics of Accident*, and *Wallflower*. Her work has been produced and developed nationally at Seattle Rep, the Women's Project, the Wilma Theatre, the Playwrights' Center, the Red Eye, 1812 Productions, Dance Theatre Workshop, Ars Nova, Walkerspace, and Theatre Artaud; and internationally in Poland, Ireland, Edinburgh (the Traverse) and most recently in Prague, where she produced a festival of new Czech and American playwriting. She has collaborated with the Pig Iron Theatre Company on six new works including *Anodyne* and *The Lucia Joyce Cabaret* (both nominated for the Barrymore Award for Best New Play) and *Shut Eye*, directed by Joseph Chaikin. She has been a resident artist at Hedgebrook, Lexington Center, Princeton University, and Swarthmore College, and her writing is published in *Theatre Forum*, *Play: A Journal of Plays*, and *The*

*Best American Poetry of 1996*. Currently working on commissions from the Children's Theatre Company, the History Theatre, and the Guthrie, Deborah received her M.F.A. from Brown University and is a two-time Jerome Fellow at the Playwrights' Center.

### **CARTER W. LEWIS**

**Carter W. Lewis** returns to Geva Theatre Center where he was formerly Literary Manager and Playwright-in-Residence. He is currently serving as Playwright-in-Residence/Lecturer at Washington University in St. Louis. Mr. Lewis was also co-founder and Resident Playwright for Upstart Stage in Berkeley, California. He is the winner of several national playwriting awards including: the Julie Harris Playwriting Award, the State Theatre - Best New American Play, the Cincinnati Playhouse Rosenthal New Play Prize, New Dramatist Arnold Weissberger Playwriting Award, Playwright's Center Jerome Residency, and he is a two-time nominee for the American Theatre Critics Award. A sample of theatres that have produced his work include Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Syracuse Stage, Source Theatre, Florida Stage, Studio Arena Theatre, Fulton Opera House, Arizona Theatre Company, B Street Theatre, the Round House Theatre, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, the Dorset Theatre Festival, Sacramento Theatre Company, Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati, the Phoenix Theatre, Barksdale Theatre, American Stage, Cidermill Playhouse, Boarshead Theatre, Sonoma Repertory Theatre, Oakland Ensemble Theatre, Pegasus Theatre Company, Northwest Actors Studio Theatre, Wellfleet Theatre, New Repertory Theatre, Theatre on the Square, State Theatre Company, Barter Theatre, Florida Repertory Theatre, Virginia Stage, Geva Theatre Center, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Falcon Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Festival, San Diego Repertory Theatre and the Royal Court Theatre in London. His published works include *Evie's Waltz*, *Art Control*, *A Geometric Digression of the Species*, *Soft Click of a Switch*, *An Asian Jockey in Our Midst* and *The One-Eyed Man is King*. Other plays by Carter W. Lewis include *Golf with Alan Shepard*, *Picasso Does My Maps*, *Longevity Abbreviated For Those Who Don't Have Time*, *Women Who Steal*, *Men on the Take*, *American Storm by Integrity Out of Molly Brown*, and *Kid Peculiar*, *Ordinary Nation* and *Civil Disobedience*. For his play *While We Were Bowling*, Mr. Lewis was the recipient of a 2003 NEA/TCG Residency Grant for Playwriting, and the 2003 Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation Award for best new play of 2004.

### **PETER DUCHAN**

**Peter Duchan** is a playwright-screenwriter living in Manhattan. He co-wrote the screenplay for *Breaking Upwards*, which IFC Films released theatrically in 2010. The New York Times called the movie "a thoroughly charming romantic comedy," describing the screenplay as "startlingly humane" and the dialogue as "sharp and free of cliché." Peter also co-wrote a short film, *Unlocked*, starring Olivia Thirlby and Executive Produced by Stephen Daldry, which was an Official Selection of the Tribeca Film Festival, Gijon International Film Festival, and many others. Peter is currently writing the book of the musical, *Dogfight*, commissioned by Lincoln Center Theater. He spends his days as Director of Development for Bob Balaban's company, ChicagoFilms.

### **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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