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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GEVA THEATRE CENTER HOSTS YOUNG WRITERS SHOWCASE

Rochester, N.Y., April 28, 2011 - Geva Theatre Center hosts the **Young Writers Showcase** on **Saturday, May 7 at 2:00pm** with script-in-hand readings taking place in the Nextstage. The Young Writers Showcase gives young area playwrights the opportunity to have their works read by actors with the help of Geva directors and dramaturgs.

An invitation was extended in December of 2010 soliciting work by writers between the ages of 13 and 18, now living or having lived within the six-county area: Monroe, Livingston, Wayne, Ontario, Genesee and Orleans. Six plays were chosen to participate in this year's showcase.

The selected young playwrights include **Madeleine Feldman** (School of the Arts), **Liam Henrie** (Brighton High School), **Krystalyn Sadwick** (Hilton High School), **Valerie Sigl** (School of the Arts), **Clare Stich** (Pittsford Sutherland High School), **Katie Wolkin** (Pittsford Sutherland High School).

Tickets for the Young Writers Showcase are free, but must be reserved in advance. Call the Geva Box Office at (585) 232-Geva (4382) to reserve tickets.

About the playwrights

MADELEINE FELDMAN

Madeleine Feldman is a sophomore at School of the Arts, with an interdisciplinary Creative Writing and Instrumental (flute) focus. This is the first performance of anything she has written, though she loves performing herself, most recently appearing in SOTA's *Into the Woods* as Jack's mother.

LIAM HENRIE

Liam Henrie is a junior at Brighton High School. He was born in his home in Naples New York, and lived there until he finally emerged from the wilderness in 2008 to attend middle school at Twelve Corners. He likes reading, hiking, climbing tall trees and, of course, writing.

KRYSTALYN SADWICK

As of June 2011, Krystalyn Sadwick will be a graduate of Hilton High School. She will then be attending an as-yet-undetermined college in the fall, where she plans to study physics and saxophone. *Hero Syndrome* is her first play.

VALERIE SIGL

Valerie Sigl is a junior at School of the Arts where she has been a creative writing major for the past five years, and she's developed somewhat of a love hate-relationship with the craft. In addition to writing she is a member of the Masterminds team and her school's National Honor Society. Attending School of the Arts, she's seen many a brilliant stage performance, but not being particularly adept at the performing arts, was always in the audience. Playwriting has finally given her the opportunity to join in that long-standing tradition in some way.

CLARE STICH

Clare Stich is a senior at Pittsford Sutherland High School and is very involved in the musical theatre and drama programs. She has most recently been involved in the plays *The Crucible*, in which she played Tituba, *Happy Anniversary* in which she played Bunny and *Curtains* in which she played a featured dancer. She is very honored that her play *Battleship* was chosen as part of the Young Writers Showcase and is excited for this next great opportunity in the performing arts. She plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh in the fall to major in Social Work and minor in Music.

KATIE WOLKIN

Katie Wolkin is a senior at Pittsford Sutherland High School. Although she's taking a theater arts class, she hasn't been involved in theatre since her eighth grade production of *The Sound of Music*, in which she was cast as Frau Schmidt. So it came as quite a surprise to her that her play had been chosen for the Young Writers Showcase at Geva! At school, she serves as the vice-president for the school environmental club, Project Earth, and is a member of the Sutherland High A Capella Group. Though she loves to sing and explore the performing arts, her true passion is for animals. She plans to pursue a career in zoology or biology (with some A Capella on the side!) at Colgate University where she was accepted early decision into the class of 2015. She is honored to have received the opportunity to participate in the student showcase, and thanks everyone who has made this experience possible!

**For further information, or to arrange interviews, please contact:
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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 170,000 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 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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