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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Rochester to Host National Theatre Festival**

*Week-long AACTFest11 features a Technical Theatre Conference at Roberts Wesleyan and twelve performances by companies from all over the US and Military bases in Europe in the Geva Mainstage.*

**Rochester, N.Y. May 13, 2011** – In February of 2009, it was announced that TANYS (The Theatre Association of New York State) had been selected to host AACTFest11, a program of the American Association of Community Theatre. Rochester was selected as the host city for this national festival from an initial field of 30 applicants across the country and chosen out of a shortlist of three to host the Festival which is held biennially.

Two and a half years of preparation are nearly at an end and the festival is due to kick off in a matter of weeks. This is the first theatre festival which Rochester will have ever hosted!

AACTFest11 begins with a Technical Theatre Conference offering workshops on lighting, stage design, costume design and other technical disciplines, as well as a Community Theatre Management Conference from Monday, June 20 to Wednesday, June 22. TANYS is hosting this aspect of AACTFest11 at the Roberts Cultural Life Center at Roberts Wesleyan College. This conference will be open to participants from community, high school and college theatres as well as the many churches that produce plays.

Geva Theatre Center was selected as the venue for the performances of **AACTFest11** from June 22 to June 25<sup>th</sup>. Twelve productions by community theatre groups from around the US and overseas military organizations have advanced through adjudication from the state level to the regional level and finally to the national level here in Rochester.

Each production will be adjudicated by a panel of distinguished and accredited adjudicators. The panel features **Scott Richard Klein**, Chair of the Arts Department at Cameron University in Oklahoma; **Larry Neilson**, a highly respected director and adjudicator from Benton Harbor, Michigan; **Annette G. Procunier**, one of the most sought after adjudicators in the world; and **Allen Ebert**, Co-Director of the Wisconsin Film Festival and president of the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre.

Other events exclusively for participants will be held at the Radisson Hotel Downtown.

AACTFest11 will attract hundreds of people from around the country and will involve volunteers from Rochester's community theatre groups and TANYS members from across New York State.

## **AACTFest11 Performance Schedule at Geva Theatre Center**

### **Wednesday, June 22**

**1:15pm**      *The Bear* – Arlekin Studio from Newton MA

*Hauptmann* – SHAPE from Mons, Belgium

**6:45pm**      *The Gin Game* – Broken Arrow Community Playhouse, from Broken Arrow, OK

*Sunday in the Park with George* – Manatee Players from Bradenton, FL

### **Thursday, June 23**

**1:15pm**      *25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* – Spokane Civic Theatre from  
Spokane, WA

*Wiley and the Hairy Man* – County Seat Theatre Company from Colquet, MN

### **Friday, June 24**

**1:15pm**      *The Zoo Story* – Chapel Street Players from Newark, DE

*Parallel Lives* – Evergreen Players from Evergreen, CO

**7:00pm**      *Second Samuel* – Wetumpka Depot Players, Wetumpka, AL

*Check, Please* – Chino Community Theatre from Chino, CA

### **Saturday, June 25**

**1:15pm**      *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead* – Ohlook Performing Arts  
Center from Grapevine, TX

*Urinetown: the Musical* – CenterStage – Midland Center for the Arts from  
Midland, MI

**Tickets are \$15 for each session**

**Tickets are available by calling the Geva Theatre Center Box Office at**

**(585) 232-Geva or online at [www.gevatheatre.org](http://www.gevatheatre.org)**

**Further information on the entire AACTFest Schedule may be found at  
[www.aactfest11.org](http://www.aactfest11.org)**

**To arrange interviews with the organizers or adjudicators,  
please contact Dawn Kellogg, Communications Manager,  
(585) 232 1366 x 3059**

**AACT (American Association of Community Theatre)**

AACT (American Association of Community Theatre) represents the interests of community theatres across the country and the individuals who support them. AACT represents the interest of more than 7,000 theatres across the country as well as theatre companies with the armed forces overseas. For more information: [www.aact.org](http://www.aact.org)

**TANYS (Theatre Association of New York State)**

The Theatre Association of New York State (TANYS), a nonprofit member organization, promotes the growth and quality of community and academic theatre in New York State. TANYS provides theatrical resources, networking, recognition and outreach services to its membership. In 2009, TANYS celebrated fifty-continuous years of the New York State Theatre Festival. The annual Festival is an educational program that brings theatre companies and individuals from across the State together to participate in three days of productions and workshops. It is the largest gathering of its type in the State. TANYS is a member of the American Association of Community Theatre, Eastern States Theatre Association and the New York State Theatre Education Association. [www.tanys.org](http://www.tanys.org)

**GEVA THEATRE CENTER**

Founded in 1972, Geva Theatre Center is a not-for-profit, professional theatre company dedicated to creating and producing professional theatre productions, programs and services of a national standard. As Rochester's leading professional theatre, Geva Theatre Center is the most attended regional theatre in New York State, and one of the 25 most attended in the country, attracting 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; 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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