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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GEVA THEATRE CENTER'S 2016 FIELDING STUDIO SERIES CONCLUDES WITH *DANCING LESSONS*

Rochester, N.Y., March 29, 2016 – Geva Theatre Center's 2016 Fielding Studio Series concludes with *Dancing Lessons* by Mark St. Germain. This production comes to Geva from The Kitchen Theatre Company in Ithaca and is directed by **Sara Lampert Hoover**. The production begins performances on April 14 and runs in the Fielding Nextstage through May 1.

Two lonely souls embark on a relationship filled with surprising discoveries. A high-functioning young man with Asperger's Syndrome seeks the instruction of a Broadway dancer, now sidelined with injuries. As their relationship unfolds, they're caught off-guard by the unexpected revelations – both hilarious and heartwarming – that they make about each other. A new romantic comedy from the author of *Freud's Last Session* about an unlikely relationship and the healing power of love.

Mark St. Germain's play, *Freud's Last Session*, ran for two years Off-Broadway, closing July 24th, 2012. Geva produced the play on the Wilson Stage to great success in 2012. The play has been open in Argentina since January 2012 and in repertory in Sweden, Australia and Denmark. His play *Becoming Dr. Ruth* premiered in July 2012 at the Barrington Stage Company in the Berkshires, played at Hartford Theaterworks, and was brought to NYC to the Westside Theatre. *Scott and Hem in the Garden of Allah* co-premiered in the summer of 2013 at the Contemporary American Theater Festival and Barrington Stage Company. His play *The Best of Enemies*, first produced by the Barrington Stage Company, is now being produced throughout the country. *The Fabulous Lipitones*, a musical comedy co-written with John Markus, premiered at the Theatrical Outfit in Atlanta in summer, 2013, and then at Goodspeed Playhouse. Mr. St. Germain's other plays include *Camping with Henry and Tom* (Lucille Lortel and Outer Critics Circle Awards), *Ears on a Beetle*, *The God Committee*, *Out of Gas on Lover's Leap* and *Dancing Lessons* (premiered at the Barrington Stage Festival). Mr. St. Germain wrote the Tammy Wynette Musical *Stand by Your Man*, which began at the Ryman Theater in Nashville. With composer Charles Strouse he co-wrote the book for his adaption of Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*. With composer Randy Courts Mark has written the perennial musical *The Gifts of the Magi* as well as Johnny Pye and the Foolkiller (AT&T Award Grant) and *Jack's Holiday* (Playwrights Horizons). Television work includes Writer/Creative Consultant for "The Cosby Show" and Dick Wolf's "Crime and Punishment." He co-wrote director Carroll Ballard's film "Duma" and produced and directed the documentary "My Dog, An Unconditional Love Story," with Richard Gere, Glenn Close, Edward Albee and others. He also wrote the award-winning children's book *Three Cups*. He is an Associate Artist of the Barrington Stage Company, a recipient of the William Inge Festival's New Voices Award, and a member of the Dramatists Guild and the Writer's Guild East. He is an alumnus of New Dramatists.

Rachel Burttram (Senga Quinn) makes her Geva Theatre Center debut in *Dancing Lessons*. She is an ensemble company member of fourteen years at Florida Repertory Theatre, named by *Wall Street Journal's* Terry Teachout as "one of America's Top Repertory Companies." Regional theatre credits include the Kitchen Theatre Company, Actors' Theatre of Louisville, Gloucester Stage, Barnstormers' Theatre, City Equity, Hippodrome Theatre, Riverside Theatre and various stages in NYC including the prestigious Actors' Studio. On-screen work includes *Emma's Fine*, *Bloodlines*, *Burn Notice*, *World Traveler* as well as national and regional commercials. Ms. Burttram was named Best Actress by *Florida Weekly*. **Zack Calhoon** (Ever Montgomery) makes his Geva Theatre Center debut in *Dancing Lessons*. Acting credits include Hamlet in *Hamlet* (twice), Billy in *The Real Thing*, Edmund in *King Lear*, Dex in the U.S. premiere of Irvine Welsh's (author of *Trainspotting*) play, *You'll Have Had Your Hole*; Prince Hal in *Henry IV, Part 1* (Boomerang Theater Company); The Critic and Hotspur in *Shakespeare's Slave* (Resonance Ensemble), Sgt. Woodward in *In Fields Where They Lay* (twice), Ivan in *The Commission*, Lee in *True West*, Jamie in *The Credeaux Canvas*, (Dreamscape Theatre); Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (On The Square Productions); Edgar in *King Lear* (ShakespeareNYC); Lady Anne in *Richard III* (Judith Shakespeare Co.); Chiron in *Titus Andronicus* (Expanded Arts), Romeo in *Romeo & Juliet* and Proteus in *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, (Actors Shakespeare Co.). Mr. Calhoon is also an award-winning playwright and wrote two episodes for the web series, *Then We Got HELP!* He graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts with a B.F.A. in Acting.

Dancing Lessons is directed by **Sara Lampert Hoover**. The creative team includes **David L. Arsenault** (Scenic Design), **Lisa Boquist** (Costume Design), **Tyler M. Perry** (Lighting Design), **Nate Goebel** (Sound Design) and **Brad Peterson** (Projection Design).

***Dancing Lessons* begins performances on April 14 and runs in the Fielding Stage through May 1.**

The 2016 Fielding Studio Series is supported in part by the Gouvernet Arts Fund at The Community Foundation.

Photo Attached: Rachel Burttram and Zack Calhoon in *Dancing Lessons* by Mark St. Germain. Photo by Fatima Sowe.

**For further information, additional photographs or to arrange interviews, please contact:
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PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Preview: Thursday, April 14 @ 7pm

Opening: Friday, April 15 @ 7pm

Performances: Saturday, April 16 @ 2:30pm (Open-Captioned) and 7:30pm
Sunday, April 17 @ 3pm
Tuesday, April 19 @ 7pm
Wednesday, April 20 @ 7pm
Thursday, April 21 @ 7pm

Friday, April 22 @ 7pm
Saturday, April 23 @ 2:30pm and 7:30pm
Sunday, April 24 @ 3pm
Wednesday, April 27 @ 7pm
Thursday, April 28 @ 7pm
Friday, April 29 @ 7pm
Saturday, April 30 @ 2:30pm and 7:30pm
Sunday, May 1 @ 3pm

TICKET PRICES: All Seats at \$35.

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

LOCATION: Fielding Stage, Geva Theatre Center, 75 Woodbury Blvd, Rochester, NY 14607

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 subscribed in the country, serving up to 160,000 patrons annually, including more than 16,000 students.

The 526-seat Elaine P. Wilson Stage is home to a wide variety of performances, from musicals to American and world classics. The 180-seat Ron & Donna Fielding Stage is home to Geva's own series of contemporary drama, comedy and musical theatre; Geva Comedy Improv; Geva's New Play Reading Series and the Hornets' Nest - an innovative play-reading series facilitating community-wide discussion on controversial topics. In addition, the Nextstage 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 under the artistic direction of Mark Cuddy.

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