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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Geva Theatre Center Announces P.L.A.Y. Student Matinees for the 2016-2017 Season

Performance=Literature + Art + You student matinee series gives school groups the opportunity to experience world-class theatre at \$16 per ticket.

Rochester, N.Y., May 17, 2016 – More than 16,000 students annually experience Geva Theatre Center through school matinees at the theatre, in-school workshops, career days, and more.

As the most attended professional theatre in the Northeast outside of Manhattan, Geva is excited to share the magic of theatre with students from all over the region with the P.L.A.Y. Student Matinee Series. This series connects students, teachers and schools with the performing arts in a meaningful way, through performances that both complement the school curriculum, and introduce students to worlds that they have never known before. Free, comprehensive Discovery Guides are given to educators to help them prepare their students for their Geva experience and free, in-school artist Discovery workshops* are offered to every school bringing a group to a P.L.A.Y. Student matinee.

All seats for P.L.A.Y. matinees are **\$16** per person. Geva offers a complimentary ticket for every 15 ordered. Tickets are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve your seats, call the **Geva Theatre Center Education Department at (585) 420-2035**. **Teachers may reserve tickets for these shows beginning May 24.**

A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens

Adapted by Mark Cuddy

Music & Lyrics by Gregg Coffin

P.L.A.Y. Performances: November 29, December 1st, 6th, 7th, 8th, 13th and 14th at 10:30am

This famous tale of the redemption of Ebenezer Scrooge, the most despised man in London, will awaken the heart and rekindle the spirit in Geva's critically-acclaimed adaptation. **Recommended for all audiences (ages 5 and up).**

***Please Note:** Discovery Workshops are not offered for this production.

The Lake Effect

By Rajiv Joseph

P.L.A.Y. Performances: February 7th, 8th and 14th at 10:30am

During a fierce winter storm, estranged siblings reunite in their family's restaurant amid pungent memories of tandoors and tikka masala. When a regular customer claims to know more of their family history than they do, Vijay and Priya are

forced to consider the future of the business. Pulitzer Prize-finalist Rajiv Joseph serves up a spicy menu of family secrets, sibling rivalry and unlikely friendship. **Recommended for 8th Grade and up.**

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Adapted by Todd Kreidler

Based on the Screenplay by William Rose

P.L.A.Y. Performances: March 2nd and 9th at 10:30am

Joanna surprises her liberal, white parents when she brings home John, her African-American fiancé, to meet them. However, she shocks even John by inviting *his* disapproving parents to dinner. A clash of generations and races ensues when both sets of parents must confront their own unexpected reactions and concerns for their children as their long-held beliefs are put to the test. This funny and poignant stage adaptation offers a fresh interpretation of the beloved Academy Award-winning film. **Recommended for middle school and up.**

Private Lives

By Noël Coward

P.L.A.Y. Performance: March 30 at 10:30am

Elyot and Amanda have been divorced from each other for five years, so imagine their surprise when, whilst honeymooning on the French Riviera with their new spouses, they find themselves in adjacent suites. Sparks fly, reigniting a passion between them too powerful to fight (although fighting is the thing that they do best) in Noël Coward's 1930 champagne cocktail of a comedy about the fine line between love and loathing.

Recommended for middle school and up.

Opportunities for Educators.

Geva offers educators opportunities to become more familiar with Geva as they plan their students' experiences. Geva's Education Department offers a workshop for all educators introducing the season and the plays of the P.L.A.Y. Student Matinee Series. This season's workshop will be held on Wednesday, October 5th at 5pm. Additionally, Geva offers educators a 15% discount off of the 6-Show, Wilson Stage Series package or the 9-show Wilson and Fielding Stage Series. A current school ID for full-time teachers, student teachers, principals and school librarians for grades K-12 is needed for verification. To order, contact the Geva Theatre Center Box Office at (585) 232-4382).

**Please contact Geva Theatre Center Education Department at (585) 420-2035
if you have any questions about our education programs.**

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