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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Geva Theatre Center presents **SYLVIA**

The adult urban comedy by A R. Gurney begins January 10.

All star cast includes Jennifer Cody, Hunter Foster, Dee Hoty and John Scherer.

Rochester, N.Y., December 19, 2016 – Geva Theatre Center presents *Sylvia*, an adult urban comedy with a huge heart. Written by **A. R. Gurney**, *Sylvia* is directed by **Mark Cuddy** and will be performed in the Wilson Stage from **January 10 to February 5**.

Empty nesters Greg and Kate have relocated back to Manhattan after two decades of raising their family in the suburbs. As Kate observes: “The dog phase of my life is definitely over.” When Greg finds Sylvia, a street-smart Labra-doodle in Central Park and brings her home, she becomes a bone of contention between Greg and Kate, testing their marriage to howlingly hilarious and touching effect.

Buffalo-born **A.R. Gurney** is the playwright of *Scenes From American Life, Children, The Dining Room, The Middle Ages, Richard Cory, The Golden Age, What I Did Last Summer, The Wayside Motor Inn, Sweet Sue, The Perfect Party, Another Antigone, The Cocktail Hour, Love Letters, The Snow Ball* (adapted from his novel), *The Old Boy, The Fourth Wall, Later Life, A Cheever Evening, Sylvia, Overtime, Let's Do It (A Cole Porter Musical), Labor Day, Far East, Darlene And The Guest Lecturer, Ancestral Voices*. He wrote libretto for *Strawberry Fields*, with music by Michael Torke, part of the Central Park Opera trilogy presented by the New York City Opera in the fall of 1999. Novels include *The Gospel According to Joe, Entertaining Strangers, and The Snow Ball*. Awards include Drama Desk, N.E.A., Rockefeller Foundation, New England Theatre Conference, Lucille Lortel, American Association of Community Theatres, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. Mr. Gurney holds honorary degrees from Williams College and Buffalo State University. Mr. Gurney was on the faculty of M.I.T. until 1996.

Sylvia is a play with a wonderful pedigree. It premiered Off-Broadway at the Manhattan Theatre Club in 1995 where it ran for 167 performances. The cast included Sarah Jessica Parker as the spunky labradoodle, Sylvia.

The production received a number of Drama Desk nominations including one for Best New Play. It has been produced at theatres around the world and was produced on Broadway in 2015.

Geva's production of *Sylvia* features an all-star cast – three returning to the Wilson Stage and one making her Geva Theatre Center debut. Rochester native **Jennifer Cody** (Broadway's *A Christmas Story*, *Shrek*, *The Pajama Game*, *Taboo*, *Urinetown the Musical*, *Seussical the Musical*, *Grease*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Cats* and Geva productions of *The Odd Couple*, *Women in Jeopardy!* and *Spamalot!*) is Sylvia, the spunky Labradoodle. Tony Award-nominee **Hunter Foster** (Broadway's *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Hands on a Hardbody*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *The Producers*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Urinetown the Musical*, *Les Misérables*, *Footloose*, *King David* and *Grease* and Geva's production of *Spamalot!*) plays the multiple roles of Tom, Phyllis and Leslie and **John Scherer** (Broadway's *LoveMusik* and *Sunset Boulevard* and Geva's production of *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*) is Greg. Making her Geva Theatre Center debut as Kate is three-time Tony nominee **Dee Hoty** (Broadway's *Footloose*, *The Best Little Whorehouse Goes Public*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, *Bright Star*, *Gigi*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *City of Angels*, *Me and My Girl*, *Big River*).

Sylvia is directed by Artistic Director **Mark Cuddy**. The design team includes **Jo Winiarski** (scenic designer), **Susan Branch Towne** (costume designer), **Ann G. Wrightson** (lighting designer) and **Scott Killian** (sound designer).

The 2016-2017 Wilson Stage Series is sponsored by **ESL Federal Credit Union**. The Honorary Wilson Stage Series Sponsor is **Dr. Dawn Lipson**. *Sylvia* is produced with support from Lead Co-Producer **St. John Fisher College**; Co-Producer **Harter Secrest & Emery LLP**; Associate Producer **Entre Computer Services** and Media Sponsors **News10 NBC** and **98WPXY**.

***Sylvia* begins performances January 10 and runs in the Wilson Stage through February 5.**

For photos, or to arrange interviews, please contact
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PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

PREVIEWS:

- Tuesday, January 10 @ 7:30pm
- Wednesday, January 11 @ 7:30pm
- Thursday, January 12 @ 7:30pm
- Friday, January 13 @ 8pm
- Saturday, January 14 @ 2pm (Open Captioned Performance)

OPENING NIGHT: Saturday, January 14 @ 8pm (Opening Night)

PERFORMANCES: Sunday, January 15 @ 2pm and 7pm
Tuesday, January 17 @ 6pm
Wednesday, January 18 @ 7:30pm
Thursday, January 19 @ 7:30pm (Community Night: Out at Geva)
Friday, January 20 @ 8pm
Saturday, January 21 @ 4pm and 8:30pm
Sunday, January 22 @ 2pm and 7pm
Tuesday, January 24 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday, January 25 @ 7:30pm
Thursday, January 26 @ 7:30pm
Friday, January 27 @ 8pm
Saturday, January 28 @ 4pm and 8:30pm
Sunday, January 29 @ 2pm (Audio Described Performance) and 7pm
Tuesday, January 31 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday, February 1 @ 2pm & 7:30pm (Open Captioned Perfs)
Thursday, February 2 @ 7:30pm (Sign Interpreted Performance)
Friday, February 3 @ 8pm
Saturday, February 4 @ 4pm and 8:30pm
Sunday, February 5 @ 2pm (Sunday Salon)

TICKET PRICES: Start at \$25

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

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

*Open captioning is provided with support from Hearing Loss Association of America – Rochester Chapter.

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 522-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 Fielding Stage 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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