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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***Geva's Plays in Progress Line-Up Announced***

**Rochester, N.Y., February 7, 2017** - Geva Theatre Center unveils the play chosen for *Plays in Progress 2017* to be held in the Fielding Stage on **February 13**. *Plays in Progress* are vibrant and innovative plays by some of the most exciting playwrights working today. Plays chosen for the reading are so new that they are not even published yet and through Geva's *Plays in Progress* program, writers can hear their work performed, discuss the play with the audience and then continue to work on the play to its next level.

"This year, *Plays in Progress* is a really thrilling experiment in creating new stories for the theatre," commented **Geva's Literary Director and Resident Dramaturg, Jenni Werner**. "We're bringing together a group of phenomenal artists, led by the talented Pirronne Yousefzadeh, to create a brand new piece inspired by questions inherent in the American Dream. The ensemble will work together to devise a play, and we'll share with our audience what happens during the four days in the rehearsal room. But as of today, not one word of this script exists. What exciting possibilities!"

**Here is the play chosen for *Plays in Progress 2017*:**

### ***Devising the American Dream***

**Devised and Directed by Pirronne Yousefzadeh**

**February 13, 2017, 7pm**

The phrase "the American Dream" was coined in 1931 in a book by James Truslow Adams. It referred to "that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone." As we consider the state of our country today, does that quintessential American phrase still carry the same meaning? In this year's *Plays in Progress*, director Pirronne Yousefzadeh (*The Lake Effect*) and an ensemble of community members and professional actors will explore this and other questions. How has the Dream changed over time? Given how divisive our politics have become, what dream(s) still unite us? This *Plays in Progress* event will give the audience a glimpse of a new piece in its nascent stage. An exciting moment to participate in the creation of new theatre! The cast includes Maha Cheklaoui, Kathleen Choe, Ahmad Maksoud, Jonathan Ntheketha, Alejandro Rodriguez and Esther Winters.

*Devising the American Dream* will be presented in an informal, script-in-hand performance format and are followed by a discussion with the playwright. ***Plays in Progress 2017*** is part of Geva Theatre Center's ongoing commitment to developing and producing new work for the American theatre.

Admission to the reading is free, but reservations are required. Due to the popularity of this event, patrons are limited to two tickets per person. Call the Geva Theatre Center Box Office at 585-232-Geva (4382) or visit [www.gevatheatre.org](http://www.gevatheatre.org) for tickets. Play readings sell out quickly, but tickets often become available the night of the performance.

#### **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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