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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## GEVA THEATRE CENTER'S 2017 FIELDING STUDIO SERIES CONCLUDES WITH *SEX WITH STRANGERS*

Rochester, N.Y., March 31, 2017 – Geva Theatre Center's 2017 Fielding Studio Series concludes with *Sex with Strangers* by Laura Eason. This production comes to Geva from **Kitchen Theatre Company in Ithaca, NY** with the original cast and design team and is directed by **Rachel Lampert**. The production begins performances on **April 13** and runs in the Fielding Stage through **April 30**.

**A raging snowstorm traps Olivia, a frustrated 39-year-old novelist, in a secluded cabin with Ethan, a tech-savvy, successful and attractive twenty-something blogger who has gained fame writing about his many one-night stands. Undeniable chemistry ignites into a night of passion between these two opposites and what could have just been a one-night-stand transforms into something more complicated. Online exploits interfere with real-life connection in this smart, funny and sensual drama, proving that you can't judge book by its author.**

**Laura Eason** is among the most produced living playwrights in the United States. Ms. Eason is the author of 20 plays, original works, and adaptations as well as being a musical book writer and screenwriter. Selected productions include *The Undeniable Sound of Right Now*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and *Around the World in 80 Days*. As a screenwriter, Ms. Eason wrote on seasons two and three of the Emmy-winning Netflix show "House Of Cards." She is a member of Rising Phoenix Rep, an Affiliated Artist of New Georges and an alumna of the Women's Project Playwright's Lab. She is an active ensemble member and former Artistic Director of Lookingglass Theatre Company in Chicago, recipient of the 2011 Regional Theatre Tony Award. Ms. Eason is a graduate of the Performance Studies Department of Northwestern University. Originally from Chicago, she lives in Brooklyn, NY. *Sex with Strangers* premiered at Steppenwolf Theatre Company in 2011 was one of the top ten most produced plays in the 2015-2016 American regional theatre season.

**Darian Dauchan (Ethan)** makes his Geva Theatre Center debut in *Sex with Strangers*. He is an award-winning solo performer, actor, poet, writer, and musician who has appeared on both Broadway (*Twentieth Century* starring Alec Baldwin and Anne Heche) and Off-Broadway theatre (Jean Cocteau Rep., Classical Theatre of Harlem). TV and film credits include "Law & Order," Nickelodeon's "Bet the House," as Darian the "SoundFX" Guy, and the Lionsgate feature film *Things Never Said*. His solo shows include *Fallen Patriots* (NYC Fringe); *Texaco's Last Stand* (Ohio Theatre/ IGNITE Festival); *Media Madness* (Kitchen Theatre Company); *Entertainer's Eulogy* which had limited engagements at Memphis' Playhouse on the Square, Kitchen Theatre Company, LA's Whitefire Solo Theatre Festival and Theatre ROW (United Solo Festival); *Voice Power* (Arts for All's Audience Project Tour) and *Obamatry: A Spoken Word Remix on the 44th President of the United States of America* (Under St. Marks Theater, SPKRBOX Festival, Norway) originally presented by Horse

Trade Theater Group in conjunction with the Bowery Arts and Science. *Black Sheep*, his fifth solo show, was commissioned by the Kitchen Theatre Company and placed third for Best Play at the 2015 Downtown Urban Theater Festival.

**LeeAnne Hutchison (*Olivia*)** also makes her Geva Theatre Center debut in *Sex with Strangers*. Off-Broadway credits include the premiere of *Septimus and Clarissa*; the premiere of *Sam's Romance/Rose* and *Alas, the Nymphs* at BAM. Regional credits include *August: Osage County* for Arkansas Rep; *Blanche DuBois* in *A Streetcar Named Desire* at West Virginia Public Theater; *Clybourne Park* at Arkansas Rep; *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* for Shaker Bridge Theatre, NH; *Don Juan* at the McCarter Theater; *The Underpants* at White Heron Theatre, Nantucket; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the Hamptons' Shakespeare Festival; AR Gurney's *Family Furniture* at the White Heron Theatre; the premiere of *American Stare* at NJ Rep and *Psyche* directed by Ralph Lee. Off-Off Broadway credits include Ibsen's *Ghosts*; Stoppard's *Dogg's Hamlet*; *Cahoot's Macbeth* at the Phoenix Ensemble; *Orpheus* for HERE; *Innocents* at RipeTime Theater; the world premiere of *The Third Policeman* at LaMaMa; *The Odyssey Project*; *Our Country's Good* for Culture Project; *The Recruiting Officer* at NY Classical Theatre; the premiere of *Full Bloom* by Suzanne Bradbeer; *Body Sketch* for NYTW; *I Want What You Have* for The Women's Project and *Death in Vacant Lot!* for South Wing Theatre Co. Feature Films include *One Fall* directed by Marcus Dean Fuller and *Brewsie & Willie* (Rocam Productions).

*Sex with Strangers* is directed by the Artistic Director of The Kitchen Theatre Company, **Rachel Lampert**. The creative team includes **David L. Arsenault** (Scenic Design), **Lisa Boquist** (Costume Design), **Tyler M. Perry** (Lighting Design) and **Serge Levitskiy** (Sound Design).

*Sex with Strangers* by Laura Eason marks the fourth production originating at Kitchen Theatre Company to be seen by Geva Theatre Center audiences. Previous productions include *Dancing Lessons* by Mark St. Germain (2016), *A Body of Water* by Lee Blessing (2015) and *Black Pearl Sings!* by Frank Higgins (2014).

***Sex with Strangers* begins performances on April 13 and runs in the Fielding Stage through April 30.**

The 2017 Fielding Studio Series is supported in part by the Gouvernet Arts Fund at The Community Foundation.

**Photo Attached:** Darian Dauchan and LeeAnne Hutchison in *Sex with Strangers* by Laura Eason. Photo by Dave Burbank.

**For further information, additional photographs or to arrange interviews, please contact:  
Dawn Kellogg, Communications Manager, (585) 420-2059**

## PERFORMANCE

### SCHEDULE

**Previews:**  
Thursday, April 13 @ 7pm  
Friday, April 14 @ 7pm  
Saturday, April 15 @ 2:30pm (Open Captioned)

**Opening:** Saturday, April 15 @ 7:30pm

**Performances:** Sunday, April 16 @ 3pm  
Tuesday, April 18 @ 7pm  
Wednesday, April 19 @ 7pm  
Thursday, April 20 @ 7pm  
Friday, April 21 @ 7pm  
Saturday, April 22 @ 2:30pm and 7:30pm  
Sunday, April 23 @ 3pm  
Wednesday, April 26 @ 7pm  
Thursday, April 27 @ 7pm  
Friday, April 28 @ 7pm  
Saturday, April 29 @ 2:30pm and 7:30pm  
Sunday, April 30 @ 3pm

**TICKET PRICES:** All Seats at \$35.

**RESERVATIONS:** (585) 232-GEVA (4382), Website: [www.gevatheatre.org](http://www.gevatheatre.org)

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

#### **KITCHEN THEATRE COMPANY, ITHACA, NY**

Kitchen Theatre Company is celebrating its 26th Season. Located in a LEED certified newly renovated building, KTC's intimate 99-seat thrust stage space invites a bold relationship between the actors and the audience. An anchor of Ithaca's thriving West End, Kitchen Theatre Company is an Equity theatre with performances running for 10 months a year from September to June. The production of *Sex with Strangers* by Laura Eason marks the fourth production originating at KTC to be seen by Geva Theatre audiences. Previous productions include *Dancing Lessons* by Mark St. Germain, *A Body of Water* by Lee Blessing and *Black Pearl Sings!* by Frank Higgins. Kitchen Theatre Company has commissioned new work by playwrights Adam Bock, Brian Dykstra and produced the world premieres and first full productions of plays by Judy Tate, Wendy Dann, Rachel Axler, Francesca Saunders, Tanya Barfield, Deb Margolin, Alexander Thomas, Brian Parks, world premiere musicals by Rachel Lampert and Larry Pressgrove and original musicals for general audiences by Lesley Greene and Rachel Lampert. Plays and musicals originating at the Kitchen have been produced at 59e59th Street Theatre in NYC (*The Soup Comes Last* by Rachel Lampert and *A Play On Words* by Brian Dykstra), New York Musical Theatre Festival and theaters around the country. Kitchen Theatre Company is committed to new and recent work fully reflecting the diversity of the community, and to selecting plays that reach its branding "important conversations happen in the Kitchen". Since 1996, the organization has been under the artistic direction of Rachel Lambert. More information about the Kitchen is available at [www.kitchentheatre.org](http://www.kitchentheatre.org) or 607 272-0403.

#### **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 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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