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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GEVA HOSTS INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL

*Community Theatre Groups from across the US and Canada to perform.
Acting Irish International Theatre Festival was previously hosted by Geva in 2008.*

Rochester, N.Y., April 18, 2017 – From May 9 – 13, community theatre groups from across the US and Canada will converge at **Geva Theatre Center** for the 24th **Annual Acting Irish International Theatre Festival (AIITF)**. **The Irish Players of Rochester, a program of the Rochester Community Players (RCP)**, sponsor the festival comprised of seven, full-length productions presented over five days.

"Geva is once again extremely honored to welcome actors/directors/technicians from across the United States and Canada to the Fielding Stage for this unique panoply of Irish theatre, commented **Geva's Artistic Director, Mark Cuddy**. "I am especially proud of Rochester's Irish Players for their own artistic work, and for organizing this festival for our community. There'll be some "good craic" in Geva's new Godot's Bar for sure!"

"We are excited to be hosting the Acting Irish festival again this year, said **Peter Scribner, President of RCP and founder of the Irish Players**. The groups who came here when we last hosted, in 2008 at Geva, still talk about it as one of the best - if not THE best - Acting Irish festivals they have participated in. It will be a challenge to provide an equally excellent festival this year, but we are looking forward to it."

This year's festival will bring approximately one hundred participants from North America to Rochester. As the host group, the Irish Players will kick off the festival with a production of Brian Friel's *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* The festival will close with a performance of *The Weir* by last year's winner, The Liffey Players Drama Society of Calgary.

The AIITF is an adjudicated festival, and the Irish Players of Rochester have engaged **Paul Nelson**, an Olean-based theatre adjudicator and former President for the Theatre Association of New York State for this year's festival. Mr. Nelson, will review each production following its performance, discuss how the play relates to Irish drama in general, and outline highlights of the production.

Tickets for this event are \$20 for individual performances, with a Festival Pass offering a ticket for each of the seven productions available for \$100. Tickets and passes are available through the Geva Box Office: (585) 232-Geva (4382) or www.GevaTheatre.org.

The schedule of productions for AIITF 2017

Tuesday, May 9 at 8pm - *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* by Brian Friel

Brian Friel's early masterpiece tells of a young man in rural Ireland the eve of emigrating to America; his dreams of a new life, his regrets for those being left behind, his innermost hopes and fears dramatically presented as a private dialogue with himself. Presented by the Irish Players of Rochester, a program of the Rochester Community Players.

Wednesday, May 10 at 8pm – *Monged* by Garry Duggan

A comic story of the three most unlikely friends who navigate Dublin's nightlife over one weekend – avoiding angry girlfriends, angry parents and a psychotic drug dealer while trying to offload a new drug called "Flippers" in order to settle a debt. Presented by the Tara Players of Winnipeg.

Thursday, May 11 at 8pm - *For Better, For Worse* by Jimmy Keary

Things are not going well for one married couple – in and out of the bedroom, helped not at all by an interfering line-in mother-in-law and a recently widowed aunt who comes to stay for a few days. Presented by the Gaelic Park Players of Chicago.

Friday, May 12 at 2pm - *Outside Mullingar* by John Patrick Shanley

In this romantic comedy set in rural Ireland, Anthony and Rosemary are lovelorn farmers who need to overcome a bitter land feud, familial rivalries and their own romantic fears to find happiness. Presented by the Irish American Theater Company of Cincinnati.

Friday, May 12 at 8pm - *Little Gem* by Elaine Murphy

Three generations of Irish women greet life's travails with strength, humor and the occasional vodka and Diet Coke or night of abandon on the salsa dance floor. Presented by Milwaukee Irish Arts.

Saturday, May 13 at 2pm - *Dirty Dusting* by Ed Waugh and Trevor Wood

When three cleaners, Olive, Elsie and Peggy, are threatened with redundancy they feel that their lives are coming to an end until a chance wrong number gives them a new business start-up idea – why not run a telephone sex line? Presented by Irish Theatre of Florida, Del Ray Beach.

Saturday, May 13 at 8PM - *The Weir* by Conor McPherson

In a remote country pub in Ireland, a newcomer is spellbound by an evening of local ghostly stories; but what starts out as blarney soon turns dark as the tales drift into the realm of the supernatural. Presented by the Liffey Players Drama Society, Calgary.

**Tickets are available through the Geva Theatre Center Box Office:
(585) 232-Geva (4382) or via the website: www.gevatheatre.org**

For further information, or to arrange interviews, please contact:

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ABOUT AIITF

The AIITF was founded in 1993 as an association of Irish community theater groups from around North America. By tradition, the host organization stages the opening production and the winner of the previous year's festival closes the festival. The Liffey Players Drama Society of Calgary won the "Best Production" award at the 2016 festival in Milwaukee and will close this year's festival. The AIITF is staged in a different member city each year.

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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