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FOR **IMMEDIATE** RELEASE

Screen Plays – Hollywood’s Golden Age on Stage presents

John Osborne’s *The Entertainer*

in the Fielding Stage

June 15, 2017, Rochester, N.Y. Geva Theatre Center is delighted to host **Screen Plays – Hollywood’s Golden Age on Stage**, and their production of *The Entertainer* by **John Osborne**, directed by **Jean Gordon Ryon**, from **June 22 – July 2** in the **Fielding Stage** at **Geva Theatre Center**.

1950s England. Music hall is dying and Archie Rice, a struggling performer, is the embodiment of its decline. With uncanny foresight John Osborne portrays the crumbling theatrical empire as a symbol of Britain’s fading imperial dreams in this kitchen sink drama, alive with gritty vitality. This classic play was famously adapted into a 1960 film starring Laurence Olivier.

John Osborne’s (1929 – 1994) writing career spanned over four decades and encompassed stage, film and TV. Through his plays, which he once described as “lessons in feeling,” he transformed the British theatre, throwing off the constraints of previous generations for a new realism. Known for his criticism of the establishment, he was one of the first writers to address Britain’s relevance in the post-imperial age. “He saw theatre as a weapon with which ordinary people could break down class barriers.” He was one of the “angry young men” of the British theatre – a group of working and middle class writers disillusioned with the establishment. His 1956 play, *Look Back in Anger*, defined the theatrical term of the “kitchen sink drama” – plays which depicted the lives of everyday, working class Britons. His work influenced writers such as Edward Albee and Mike Leigh.

One of the pre-eminent examples of the kitchen sink drama, *The Entertainer* was first produced in 1957 at London’s Royal Court Theatre in a production starring Laurence Olivier as Archie Rice and directed by Tony Richardson. Later that year, it transferred to the West End, and then embarked on a UK national tour before returning to the West End. It transferred to Broadway in 1958. There have been four major West End revivals, most recently a critically acclaimed production starring Kenneth Branagh. *The Entertainer* was adapted for the screen in 1960, directed by Tony Richardson and starring Laurence Olivier reprising his role as Archie Rice. Olivier was nominated for an Academy Award for his portrayal of the aging music hall performer.

Screen Plays production of *The Entertainer* features Rochester actors **William F. Alden** (Archie Rice), **Marcy J. Savastano** (Jean), **Greg Ludek** (Billy Rice), **Susan Milner** (Phoebe), **Ron DuFort** (Bill), **Daniel Soto** (Frank) and **Lance Hoffman** (Graham) with music hall performers **Shawnda Urie** and **Nadine Heroux**.

Directed by **Jean Gordon Ryon**, the production features musical director **Andrew Links** on the piano (four performances with Maxwell Greenberg and two with Orlando Diaz).

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

TICKET PRICES: **\$23.50 General Admission**
 \$21.50 (Seniors 62+ and Students)

RESERVATIONS: **232-GEVA or via the website: www.gevatheatre.org**

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

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: **Thursday, June 22 - 7:00pm**
 Friday, June 23 - 7:00pm
 Saturday, June 24 – 7:00pm
 Sunday, June 25 - 2:30pm (followed by new season announcement)
 Friday, June 30 – 7:00pm
 Saturday, July 1 - 2:00pm and 7:00pm
 Sunday, July 2 – 2:30pm (ASL Interpreted)

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 attended in the country, attracting over 160,000 patrons annually, including more than 16,000 students.

The 522-seat Elaine P. Wilson Stage offers a wide variety of shows, from musicals to American and world classics. The 180-seat Ron & Donna Fielding Stage is home to Geva's own series of cutting-edge drama, comedy and musical theatre; Geva Comedy Improv; Geva's New Play Reading Series and the Hornet's Nest - an innovative play-reading series facilitating community-wide discussion on controversial topics. The Fielding Stage also 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 led by Artistic Director Mark Cuddy.

SCREEN PLAYS ~ HOLLYWOOD'S GOLDEN AGE ON STAGE

What began as a love of classic Hollywood films is now a new, classical theater production company. Producer Karen Tuccio, brings more than a decade of local theater and film experience to this exciting venture. Her company will present plays from Hollywood's Golden Age that have a positive message, especially those showcasing women in the best, brightest, and most beautiful aspects of life.

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