



Media Contact: Dawn Kellogg
Communications Manager
(585) 420-2059
dkellogg@gevatheatre.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE FIELDING STAGE AT GEVA THEATRE CENTER HOSTS ECLECTIC MIX OF PERFORMANCES FOR THE KEYBANK ROCHESTER FRINGE FESTIVAL

Rochester, N.Y., September 5, 2017 – There are over 500 performances taking place at various venues around Rochester in the KeyBank Rochester Fringe Festival from September 14 - 23. The Fielding Stage at Geva Theatre Center is delighted to host an eclectic mix of comedy, theatre and dance for this exciting Rochester event.

Here is the line-up of performances in the Fielding Stage at Geva Theatre Center:

ART

SAND MANDALAS

Thurs., Sept 14 @ 7pm, Fri., Sept 15 @ 7pm, Sat., Sept 16 @ 3pm, Sun., Sept 17 @ 3pm, Wed., Sept 20 @ 7pm, Thurs., Sept 21 @ 7pm, Fri., Sept 22 @ 7pm, Sat., Sept 23 @ 3pm

Admission: Free and non-ticketed. Suitable for all ages.

Witness the creation of a sand mandala, in which impermanence and patience meet artistry and spectacle. Each day of the festival, artist Katie Jo Suddaby will delicately place thousands of grains of colorful sand, only to destroy the work when it's complete. Stop in several times at the Geva Café to check the progress. Then, participate in the Destruction Ceremony on the final day. This Tibetan Buddhist art form teaches that nothing is permanent, so check it out while you've got the chance!

COMEDY

ESTROFEST COMEDY: CINDERELLA, SCI-FI & DRONES

Fri., Sept. 15 @ 9pm, Sat., Sept. 16 @ 5:30pm, Sun., Sept. 17 @ 2:30pm, Fri., Sept. 22 @ 5:30pm, Sat., Sep 23 @ 8pm

Admission: \$18. Recommended for ages 18+.

Popular sketch-comedy troupe EstroFest blends original and hilarious live sketches with outrageous videos. "EstroFest was a blast!" said *CITY Newspaper's* Frank De Blase about last year's Fringe show, writing in his review: "I and the sold-out crowd snorted, guffawed, chortled, busted up, cracked up, and laughed our heads off." EstroFest, often compared to "Saturday Night Live" (but funnier), is Dresden Engle, Andrea Holland, Norma Holland, Allison Roberts, and Freyda Schneider. "Laugh with us!"

GOOD JOKE, BAD JOKE BINGO

Sat., Sept. 16 @ 7pm, Sun., Sept. 17 @ 4pm, Sun., Sept. 17 @ 8:30pm

Admission: \$10, Students with ID and Veterans: \$8. Recommended for ages 18+.

Good Joke/Bad Joke Bingo is an interactive stand-up comedy show. "Expect a set that's hilarious, delirious and refreshingly raw." – *Time Out NY*. Random bingo numbers determine which joke or story Shawn Wickens ("Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," "Mr. Robot") tells. Some are great. Some are not. The audience plays along on bingo cards to win prizes. Some prizes are great. Some are not. *Good Joke/Bad Joke Bingo* has appeared in Baltimore, Princeton, Pittsburgh, Hartford, New Orleans, Cleveland, New York City, and now Rochester.

DANCE

MERGED V

Wed., Sept. 20 @ 7:30pm, Thurs., Sept. 21 @ 6pm, Fri., Sept. 22 @ 7pm, Sat., Sept. 23 @ 1pm.

Admission: \$10. Appropriate for ages 13+.

International choreographers James Hansen and Heather Roffe return to Geva Theatre Center for *Merged V*. A three-time *CITY Newspaper Critics' Pick*, this collaboration blends physically exciting dance with multi-media elements for choreography that is simultaneously thought-provoking to seasoned dance viewers and accessible to first-time audiences. *CITY* wrote: "It seemed new and fresh, yet it was still accessible and, at times, even poignant;" "I was captivated by...some very exciting dancing;" and "I was moved to tears."

STORIES OF TURTLE ISLAND

Sat., Sept. 16 @ 12:30pm, Sun., Sept. 17 @ 1pm

Admission: \$15, Kids 12 and under: \$5. Appropriate for all ages.

Daystar, recognized as the First Indigenous Contemporary Dance Theatre in the USA, invites you to open yourself to Native American culture through dance, mask, and puppetry. See Old Man creating life and death (Blackfoot), Wolf changing from youth to aged shaman (Ojibway), and the healing woman Sage (Algonquin). These are the archetypes found 'round the world, but here in the storytelling circle, all learn the teachings of water, deer hooves, and eagles' wings. Not for children only!

MULTIDISCIPLINARY

ELEPHANT GRASS: AN AFROFUTUR-MYSTIC TALE

Thurs., Sept. 14 @ 6pm, Sat., Sept. 16 @ 3:30pm, Sun., Sept. 17 @ 7pm and Sat., Sept. 23 @ 4pm

Admission: \$15, Students with ID and Kids 12 and under: \$10. Appropriate for all ages.

Elephant Grass: An Afrofutur-Mystic Tale is Sci-Fi Dance Theater. A SHE-ro on a mission. Visions. Ritual. Initiation. Is it safe for a girl to surf the universe alone? Shamen & her Ancestors make safe passage beyond the mystical Grass. When was the last time YOU had to face doubt and fear? A 'Fire Gorgon' and a 'Water Maddah' are no ordinary ordeals! A Guy & N'Jelle Thorne original dance-centric performance art experience of philosophical nuggets and choreographic swagger.

JULIA BURRER / MARIAH MALONEY: INTIMATE WORKS

Fri., Sept. 15 @ 7pm and Sat., Sept. 16 @ 2pm.

Admission: \$15; Students w/ ID, seniors, kids 12 & under: \$10. Appropriate for all ages.

Two longtime New York City dancers/choreographers, Julia Burrer (Doug Varone and Dancers) and Mariah Maloney (Trisha Brown Dance Company), join together for the first time to share an evening of intimate works. This premiere of solo and duet work delves into each choreographer's rich, embodied investigations. Burrer's "angle of repose" (in collaboration with Benjamin Wolk) examines the idea of thresholds, personal edges, and physical boundaries. Maloney's "Filter," a highly articulate choreography, develops a conversation with JoAnne Maffia's haunting music composition.

MEMENTO ANIMA

Thurs., Sept. 21 @ 9pm and Fri., Sept. 22 @ 8:30pm

Admission: \$10, Seniors: \$8, Students w/ID: \$6. Appropriate for all ages.

Greg Byers (cello, composition) and Hannah Nemer (film) have collaborated to create *Memento Anima*, a sensitive exploration of movement, entropy, and the soul's journey. Latin for "remember life," *Memento Anima* focuses on lost moments spent traveling, so that we might see their inherent beauty. This innovative suite for cello with effects is performed live alongside immersive visual accompaniment. Byers is a native of nearby Honeoye Falls, while Nemer draws inspiration from her time in Rochester documenting Civil War reenactments.

TWO OF MEE

Thurs., Sept. 21 @ 7:30pm and Sat., Sept 23 @ 2:30pm

Admission: \$10, Students w/ID: \$5. Recommended for mature audiences.

Two of Mee is composed of two pieces developed from texts by playwright Charles Mee. "Life Is a Dream" with Nanako Horikawa and Andrea Vazquez, as well as music composed and performed by James J. Kaufman, responds to the paradox of our capacity for rapturous love and devastating destruction. "Mee and She" is a pastiche of women's monologues from Mee's works, shared by performers Lynea D'Aprix and Olivia Howard. The pieces were staged collaboratively under the direction of Frank Kuhn.

THEATRE

COLLARD GREEN CURVES – THE NURSE BOWICK STORY

Thurs, Sept. 14 @ 9pm, Fri., Sept. 15 @ 10:30pm and Sat., Sept. 16 @ 10:30pm

Admission: \$15. Appropriate for ages 13+.

Collard Green Curves depicts the life of Theresa Lou Bowick, a misguided obese girl growing up so consumed with self-hate, overeating, misinformation, and distrust that it catapulted her into a life filled with unbelievable curves. Get ready to laugh, cry, and pray during this one-hour taste of an incredible, funny, tear-jerking performance of Bowick's journey to conquer unhealthy habits, and the fight to achieve her goal to become a God-directed, victorious Nurse.

SPY IN THE HOUSE OF MEN

Thurs., Sept 14 @ 7:30pm, Sat., Sept 16 @ 9pm, Wed., Sept 20 @ 6pm, Sat., Sept 23 @ 6:30pm

Admission: \$15, Students with ID: \$10. Recommended for ages 13+.

Transgender writer and performer Penny Sterling's laugh-out-loud theatre engagement concludes its four-city summer tour here in Rochester. Deeply affecting and intimate, the award-winning *Spy in the House of Men* maps Penny's journey through a life-long coming-out process. Come see the show critics call "a hilarious, suspenseful, heart-stopping story" and "a compact evening's entertainment that's as funny as it is enlightening."

KEYBANK ROCHESTER FRINGE FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE IN THE FIELDING STAGE:

Thursday, Sept 14

ELEPHANT GRASS: AN AFROFUTUR-MYSTIC TALE: @ 6pm
SAND MANDALAS @ 7pm
SPY IN THE HOUSE OF MEN @ 7:30pm
COLLARD GREEN CURVES – THE NURSE BOWICK STORY @ 9pm

Friday, Sept 15

JULIA BURRER / MARIAH MALONEY: INTIMATE WORKS @ 7pm
SAND MANDALAS @ 7pm
ESTRO-FEST COMEDY: CINDERELLA, SCI-FI & DRONES @ 9pm
COLLARD GREEN CURVES – THE NURSE BOWICK STORY @ 10:30pm

Saturday, Sept 16

STORIES OF TURTLE ISLAND @ 12:30pm
JULIA BURRER / MARIAH MALONEY: INTIMATE WORKS @ 2pm
SAND MANDALAS @ 3pm
ELEPHANT GRASS: AN AFROFUTUR-MYSTIC TALE: @ 3:30pm
ESTRO-FEST COMEDY: CINDERELLA, SCI-FI & DRONES @ 5:30pm
GOOD JOKE/BAD JOKE BINGO @ 7pm
SPY IN THE HOUSE OF MEN @ 9pm
COLLARD GREEN CURVES – THE NURSE BOWICK STORY @ 10:30pm

Sunday, Sept 17

STORIES OF TURTLE ISLAND @ 1pm
ESTRO-FEST COMEDY: CINDERELLA, SCI-FI & DRONES @ 2:30pm
SAND MANDALAS @ 3pm
GOOD JOKE/BAD JOKE BINGO @ 4pm
ELEPHANT GRASS: AN AFROFUTUR-MYSTIC TALE: @ 7pm
GOOD JOKE/BAD JOKE BINGO @ 8:30pm

Wednesday, Sept 20

SPY IN THE HOUSE OF MEN @ 6pm
SAND MANDALAS @ 7pm

MERGED V @ 7:30pm

Thursday, Sept 21

MERGED V @ 6pm
SAND MANDALAS @ 7pm
TWO OF MEE @ 7:30pm
MEMENTO ANIMA @ 9pm

Friday, Sept 22

ESTRO-FEST COMEDY: CINDERELLA, SCI-FI & DRONES @ 5:30pm
MERGED V @ 7pm
SAND MANDALAS @ 7pm
MEMENTO ANIMA @ 8:30pm

Saturday, Sept 23

MERGED V @ 1pm
TWO OF MEE @ 2:30pm
SAND MANDALAS @ 3pm
ELEPHANT GRASS: AN AFROFUTUR-MYSTIC TALE: @ 4pm
SPY IN THE HOUSE OF MEN @ 6:30pm
ESTRO-FEST COMEDY: CINDERELLA, SCI-FI & DRONES @ 8pm

RESERVATIONS:

- Online at www.rochesterfringe.com
- Via phone: (585) 957-9837 (fees apply). Thursdays 6-8pm and Saturdays 12-3pm (through Sept 10); during Fringe Box Office hours (Sept 10 – 23).
- In person at the Fringe Box Office (from Sept 10. Visit rochesterfringe.com for hours and details.)
- In person at the Geva Theatre Center Box Office (75 Woodbury Blvd) one hour before performance

LOCATION:

**The Fielding Stage at Geva Theatre Center,
75 Woodbury Blvd, Rochester, NY 14607**

[Visit www.rochesterfringe.com for a full listing of all performances and venues.](http://www.rochesterfringe.com)

**For detailed info on these shows, photographs and interviews, contact
Dawn Kellogg, Communications Manager, at (585) 232-2059 or dkellogg@gevatheatre.org**

ABOUT 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.

THE KEYBANK ROCHESTER FRINGE FESTIVAL

This event will feature more than 500 shows in downtown Rochester venues on from September 14 through Sunday, September 23, 2017. Please visit www.rochesterfringe.com for more information.

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