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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Geva to Host Theatre Critic and Author  
ERIC GRODE  
in Conversation with Mark Cuddy**

***The Book of Broadway: The Definitive Plays and Musicals* takes readers on a fascinating journey through 150 years of Broadway's greatest shows.**

**October 12, 2017, Rochester, N.Y.** Geva Theatre Center is delighted to announce that *New York Times* theatre critic and author **Eric Grode** will be in conversation with Mark Cuddy in the **Fielding Stage at 7pm on October 23**. The second edition of Grode's book, *The Book of Broadway: The Definitive Plays and Musicals* (Quarto Publishing: \$50), has been recently published, and he will be appearing exclusively at Geva to talk about this latest edition.

**Eric Grode** is the director of the Goldring Arts Journalism Program at Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications and a regular freelance theater reporter for the *New York Times*. He previously served as the head theatre critic for the *New York Sun* and Broadway.com, and his articles and reviews have also appeared in the *Village Voice*, *New York* magazine, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Time Out New York* and more than a dozen other publications. Grode has held full-time editorial jobs at *TV Guide*, *Good Housekeeping* and *XXL*, where he served as managing editor. He is the former vice president of the New York Drama Critics Circle and the author of two books: *Hair: The Story of the Show That Defined a Generation*, the authorized history of the Broadway musical, and *The Book of Broadway: The Definitive Plays and Musicals*. In addition to his work with the Goldring program, with which he has been affiliated since 2007, Grode has taught at Lehman College and the University of Rochester Medical School. Eric lives in Brighton with his wife and two children.

**"One of the most impressive things about the book, aside from the well-chosen archival photos, is that Grode rescues Broadway history from the mid-1800s through the vaudeville period, before the musical came into its own as a distinctly American art form." - *New York Journal of Books***

Published by Voyageur Press's Quarto Publishing group, *The Book of Broadway* includes everything from the 1860s musical, *The Black Crook*, which captivated and titillated audiences for more than five hours, to *Hamilton*, Broadway's biggest story of the last decade. The men and women who shaped Broadway history – such as Stephen Sondheim, Tennessee Williams, Bernadette Peters, Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein II, Ethel Merman, Marlon Brando, August Wilson, Nathan Lane and Lin-Manuel Miranda - are celebrated for their groundbreaking work. Packed with production photos, this richly illustrated 328-page book is “a treasure trove of pictures, facts and personal connections assembled by a knowledgeable and talented theatre critic who clearly loves his subject” (*Nashville Arts Critic*).

**“This compilation by Eric Grode - arts writer for the *New York Times*, and author of *Hair: The Story of the Show That Defined a Generation* - is the ultimate guide to Broadway shows. Even if you consider yourself an expert in the theater, you will be amazed by the fantastic Broadway trivia scattered throughout this volume, as well as the palpable sense of history in this encyclopedic treatment of one of our most beloved pastimes.” – goodreads**

Following the 7pm discussion with Mark Cuddy in the Fielding Stage, Grode will be signing copies of his book, which will be available for purchase.

Tickets for the event are free, but reservations are required. You may reserve your seats via Geva's website: [www.GevaTheatre.org](http://www.GevaTheatre.org) or by calling the Box Office at (585) 232-4382.

#### **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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