



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GEVA HOSTS A SERIES OF TALK BACKS & COMMUNITY
DISCUSSIONS TO COINCIDE WITH THE WORLD PREMIERE OF
*THE AGITATORS:***

The Story of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass

Rochester, N.Y., October 5, 2017 – To coincide with Geva Theatre Center’s world premiere production of *The Agitators*, by **Mat Smart**, the theatre is hosting a series of community discussions and post-show conversations. Featuring local scholars and nationally-renowned experts on Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass, these events allow Geva’s audiences to further understand the characters and the social context of this new play for the American theatre.

Oct. 16, 7pm, Fielding Stage

“Agitation and Social Change: Examining the Legacies of Anthony and Douglass”

"Agitation and Social Change: Examining the Legacies of Anthony and Douglass" brings together scholars from SUNY Geneseo, the University of Rochester, and Rochester Institute of Technology to anticipate the world premiere of *The Agitators: The Story of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass* at Geva with a panel discussion that traces the legacies of Anthony and Douglass through history to the present day by examining the trajectories of the social changes for which they worked, those who carried on their efforts, and their place in community memory today.

Moderated by **Michael Brown**, Assistant Professor of History, Rochester Institute of Technology, participants include **Tamar Carroll**, Associate Professor of History, Rochester Institute of Technology; **Emilye Crosby**, Professor of History/Coordinator of Black Studies, SUNY Geneseo; **Rich Newman**, Professor of History, Rochester Institute of Technology; and **Jeffrey Allen Tucker**, Associate Professor of English, University of Rochester.

**Tickets for this event are free and are available via
www.GevaTheatre.org or by calling the box office at (585) 232-4382.**

October 20, Wilson Stage

Post-show conversation following the 8pm performance of *The Agitators*.

(Post-show conversations are free to anyone possessing a ticket for any performance of *The Agitators*.)

With **Ann D. Gordon**, Research Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University and Editor, Stanton and Anthony Papers and **Lynn Sherr**, Editor, *Failure is Impossible: Susan B. Anthony in Her Own Words*. Moderated by **Jenni Werner**, Literary Director and Resident Dramaturg, Geva Theatre Center

October 24, Wilson Stage

Post-show conversation following the 6pm performance of *The Agitators*.

(Post-show conversations are free to anyone possessing a ticket for any performance of *The Agitators*.)

With **Leigh Fought**, Associate Professor of History, Lemoyne University and author, *Women in the World of Frederick Douglass*; **Laura E. Free**, Associate Professor of History, Hobart and William Smith; and **Larry E. Hudson**, Associate Professor of History, University of Rochester. Moderated by **Jenni Werner**, Literary Director and Resident Dramaturg, Geva Theatre Center.

The 2017-2018 Wilson Stage Series is sponsored by **ESL Federal Credit Union** and **Rochester Regional Health**. The Honorary Wilson Stage Series Sponsor is **Dr. Dawn Lipson**. *The Agitators* is produced with support from Associate Producer **M & T Bank**; and Media Sponsors **13WHAM TV** and **WHAM 1180**. *The Agitators* was commissioned by Geva with support from the **New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature**. *The Agitators* is a recipient of an **Edgerton Foundation New Play Award**.

***The Agitators* begins previews on October 17 and runs through November 12.**

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

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.