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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## GEVA'S 45<sup>TH</sup> WILSON STAGE SEASON CONTINUES WITH ***THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK***

*Fourth production in the ESL/Rochester Regional Health 2017-2018 Wilson Stage Series.*

Rochester, N.Y., January 25, 2018 – Geva Theatre Center's 2017-2018 Season continues with *The Diary of Anne Frank*, by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, newly adapted by Wendy Kesselman and directed by David Ira Goldstein, in the Elaine P. Wilson Stage from February 13 through March 18.

*The Diary of Anne Frank* is one of the most important literary works of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In this powerful new adaptation, Anne Frank emerges from history a bright and talented young girl with the aspirations of any teenager. This impassioned drama about the lives of eight people in hiding from the Nazis in a concealed Amsterdam attic captures the claustrophobic reality of their daily existence. Anne's story of love, hope, courage and triumph of the human spirit has captivated audiences with its profound message for over 70 years.

Albert Maurice Hackett and Frances Goodrich began their joint career as Broadway playwrights in the 1920s. The success of their comedy, *Up Pops the Devil*, brought them to Hollywood to work on the 1931 screen version. They went on to write some of the most popular films of the 1930s and 1940s, including *Easter Parade*; *The Thin Man* and its sequel, *After the Thin Man*; *Father of the Bride*; *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (all of which were nominated for Academy Awards for screenwriting); *In the Good Old Summertime*; *The Long, Long Trailer* and *It's a Wonderful Life* (co-written with Frank Capra and Jo Swerling).

Their adaptation of *The Diary of Anne Frank* premiered at the Cort Theatre on Broadway in 1955 (directed by Rochester native Garson Kanin) and received the Tony Award for Best Play, the NY Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

Playwright Wendy Kesselman, whose other plays include *The Executioner's Daughter*; *The Notebook*; *The Foggy Foggy Dew*; *The Last Bridge*; and *I Love You, I Love You Not*; adapted the Goodrich and Hackett script to include newly discovered writings from the diary of Anne Frank as well as survivor accounts. This new version

premiered in Boston before opening at Broadway's Music Box Theatre in 1997. The production was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Revival of a Play and received two Drama Desk Award Nominations.

Geva's production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* is a co-production with Arizona Theatre Company and features **Ann Arvia** as Mrs. Van Daan; **Gus Cuddy** as Peter Van Daan; **Steve Hendrickson** as Otto Frank; **Anna Lentz** as Anne Frank; **Naama Potok** as Edith Frank; **Kit Prelewitz** as Miep Gies; **John Preston** as Mr. Van Daan; **Devon Prokopek** as Margot Frank; **Michael Santo** as Mr. Dussel and **Dick St. George** as Mr. Kraler. Local actors **Jake Dion**, **William McDonough**, **Kevin Plinzke** and **Tyler Wolff** complete the cast.

*The Diary of Anne Frank* is directed by **David Ira Goldstein**, Artistic Director Emeritus at Arizona Theatre Company and director of Geva's 2014 production of *Wait Until Dark*. The creative team includes **Bill Clarke** (scenic design), **Mimi Maxmen** (costume design), **Ann G. Wrightson** (lighting design), **Dan Roach** (sound design), **Adriano Gatto** (violence consultant), and **Becca Poccia** (Dramaturg).

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 Diary of Anne Frank* is produced with support from Lead Co-Producer **Ames/Amzelak Memorial Trust**, Co-Producer **Flaum Management**, Associate Producer **Bond Schoeneck and King**, and Media Sponsors **Entercom** and **WROC TV**.

***The Diary of Anne Frank* begins previews on February 13, opens February 17 and runs through March 18.**

**For further information, photographs or to arrange interviews, please contact:  
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## **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

**Previews:** Tuesday, February 13 @ 7:30pm  
Wednesday, February 14 @ 7:30pm  
Thursday, February 15 @ 7:30pm  
Friday, February 16 @ 8pm  
Saturday, February 17 @ 2pm (Open Captioned Performance)

**Opening: Saturday, February 17 @ 8 pm**

**Performances:** Sunday, February 18 @ 2pm and 7pm  
Tuesday, February 20 @ 6pm  
Wednesday, February 21 @ 7:30pm  
Thursday, February 22 @ 7:30pm  
Friday, February 23 @ 8pm  
Saturday, February 24 @ 4pm and 8:30pm

Sunday, February 25 @ 2pm (Sunday Salon) and 7pm  
Tuesday, February 27 @ 7:30pm  
Wednesday, February 28 @ 7:30pm  
Thursday, March 1 @ 7:30pm  
Friday, March 2 @ 8pm  
Saturday, March 3 @ 4pm and 8:30pm  
Sunday, March 4 @ 2pm (Audio Described Performance) and 7pm  
Tuesday, March 6 @ 7:30pm  
Wednesday, March 7 @ 2pm and 7:30pm (Open Captioned performances)  
Thursday, March 8 @ 7:30pm (ASL Interpreted Performance)  
Friday, March 9 @ 8pm  
Saturday, March 10 @ 4pm and 8:30pm  
Sunday, March 11 @ 2pm (Sunday Salon)  
Thursday, March 15 @ 7:30pm  
Friday, March 16 @ 8pm  
Saturday, March 17 @ 4pm and 8:30pm  
Sunday, March 18 @ 2pm (Sunday Salon)

**Ticket Prices:** Tickets start at \$25.

**Reservations:** (585) 232-Geva (4382), Website: [www.gevatheatre.org](http://www.gevatheatre.org)

**Location:** Geva Theatre Center, 75 Woodbury Blvd, Rochester, NY 14607

\* Partial support for open captioning provided by Theatre Development Fund.

#### **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 516-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.