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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Geva Hosts Regional Writers Showcase

Rochester, N.Y. April 20, 2018 - Geva Theatre Center will host two exciting evenings of new work by area playwrights. The 23rd annual **Regional Writers Showcase** will take place at 7pm on **April 30 and May 14**. The script-in-hand performances will take place in the Fielding Stage at Geva Theatre Center. After each reading, there will be a discussion with the playwrights, director and audience.

The **Regional Writers Showcase**, a collaboration between Geva and Writers & Books, gives area playwrights the opportunity to bring their works to local audiences, showcased by professional actors, directors and dramaturgs. The featured scripts were selected from 45 plays that were submitted after a call for work.

Monday, April 30, 7:00pm

Just Like Sisters by Jay Hanagan, Directed by Jean Gordon Ryon

As Jolie and Echo head to Gettysburg, South Dakota to reconnect with their mother, they are jolted by the news that she has passed away. Now they're tasked with gathering her belongings and sorting her will. They're about to find out just how much their mother has left behind for them, and to have to ask the question: Just what makes a family?

Monday, May 14, 7:00pm

Cora by Katherine Varga, Directed by Jean Gordon Ryon

In a future, technologically advanced world, a photojournalist must leave her heart behind with a robotic babysitter as she travels overseas for a dangerous assignment. Now that she's heartless, we come to wonder — does having a heart help you or hinder you?

Tickets are free but must be reserved in advance.

Visit GevaTheatre.org or call 232-Geva (4382) to reserve tickets.

This program is made possible 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, and the Mary S. Mulligan Charitable Trust.

**For further information, please contact:
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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.

THE PLAYWRIGHTS

JAY HANAGAN'S plays have either won competitions or been featured in several festivals from Alaska to Florida, Hollywood to Boston and New York City. He has been internationally produced as well, having works presented in Canada, the United Kingdom and even Hong Kong. His full-length play "Softly Sara Falls" was produced Off-Off Broadway. He has also received meritorious achievement awards for playwriting from the Theatre Association of New York State for *Willie's Kitchen*, *Keeping Faith* and a collection of one act plays. His prize-winning full-length play, *First Kisses*, has also been translated into Estonian and Chinese and has been professionally produced in those countries. Please note that Jay's commitment to the theatre is so all engrossing, that he has even taken to spelling "theatre" with 're' at the end, instead of 'er'. His web page is woefully out of date! Jay is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America, Inc.

KATHERINE VARGA is so excited to be working with Geva's amazing literary department again! Her first full-length play, *Energy Mass Light*, received a reading with the Regional Writers Showcase before being produced on the University of Rochester campus. She was a Literary Intern at Geva in summer 2015, and the following summer she proudly represented Geva at the Curious New Voices National Collective in Denver, Colorado. Her shorter plays have been seen at Writers & Books' 2 Pages / 2 Voices festival, the 2015 First Niagara Rochester Fringe Festival, and 20% Theatre Company (Chicago). Her full-length screenplay *It's Not Rocket Science* was a finalist in the 2017 LezPlay Contest. She occasionally freelances as an arts writer for the *Democrat & Chronicle*. She is currently pursuing her M.F.A. Playwriting at Ohio University, where she teaches playwriting and play analysis, and is happy to be in Rochester for the summer as a Writers & Books SummerWrite teacher and coordinator. Website: <http://katherinevarga.weebly.com>

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