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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Summer Academy Culminates in Free Showcase Open to the Public on August 11

July 24, 2018. Rochester, N.Y. - For the past several weeks, twenty-six enthusiastic students between the ages of 12 - 18 have been sharing the building on 75 Woodbury Blvd and honing their theatre skills at Geva's Summer Academy.

Geva's Summer Academy is Rochester's premier young actor training program. Alumni include Kara Lindsey (Broadway productions of *Newsies* and *Wicked*), Kyle Zingler (Cirque du Soleil), Chris Perfetti (Roundabout Theatre's critically-acclaimed *Sons of the Prophet*) and Rachel Wallace (1st national tour of *Mary Poppins*).

Auditions were held in March for the Academy which accepted students of all levels of experience. This year's focus is *Shakespeare* and students selected for the program took classes in acting, movement, expansions, monologues, voice and diction, text analysis and scansion, singing and dance ensembles, and rehearsal/production, and participated in weekly master classes led by industry professionals.

The Summer Academy concludes with a showcase at **1pm on Saturday, August 11th** that is free and open to the public.

The showcase features scenes and songs from *Equivocation*, *Othello*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *West Side Story*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Rough Magic*, *Henry IV Part 1*, *Richard III*, *The Book of Will*, and *Once on This Island*.

Tickets are free, but must be reserved in advance by calling the Box Office at 232-Geva or online at gevatheatre.org.

For any media enquiries, contact Dawn Kellogg at 420-2059 or 330-2363.

ABOUT THE GEVA THEATRE CENTER CONSERVATORY SUMMER ACADEMY 2018

The Geva Theatre Center Conservatory Summer Academy is a five-week professional theatre training program for up to 30 selected young actors, ages 12 to 18, who wish to explore, define and develop the actor in themselves. Open to students of all levels of theatre experience, Summer Academy 2018 provided quality training for the beginning actor, as well as advanced level study for the young actor with previous experience. The theme of this summer's program was Shakespeare. The program will culminate in a showcase of the students' work that is open to the public. Students will be granted a certificate of completion from the Summer Academy 2018 program.

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.

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