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DIVE INTO THE HORNETS' NEST AT GEVA THEATRE CENTER

The 13th Season of Geva's nationally-recognized program of thought-provoking theatre begins on November 11 with *Little Lives* by Shara Feit.

Rochester, N.Y., November 8, 2019 - Few experiences can ignite a great conversation like a thrilling night in the theatre. **The Hornets' Nest** series has theatre-goers itching for that conversation.

The Hornets' Nest series of script-in-hand readings with professional actors and directors returns with three plays investigating the most challenging and controversial ethical dilemmas of our time. Following each reading, audience members will have the opportunity to engage in open discussion with key figures from the Rochester community. Since its inception in 2007, the Hornets' Nest series of readings has become nationally recognized and lauded as one of the most innovative theatrical initiatives in the country.

The 2019-2020 series begins on **November 11** with *Little Lives* by **Shara Feit** and directed by **Sharifa Elkady**.

At the Women's Care Crisis Pregnancy Center, the new trainee is learning the ropes, the protestors are stationed outside, and the abortion clinic next door is selling damnation. Then everything changes. In Shara Feit's two-part drama *Little Lives*, two staffs of women must reckon with the true cost of fighting for life. We explore the American abortion debate from an intersection of gender, religion, and healthcare as we ask: how do we uphold what is best for others without violating our personal moral integrity? If we are obligated to protect the most vulnerable amongst us, how do we decide who that is?

Shara Feit is a New York-based writer, performer, and dramaturg who makes sad/funny work about messy, virtuosic women+ of all ages. Shara's plays have been developed by Northwestern University's Department of Theatre, Young Playwrights Inc., G45 Productions, Williamstown Theatre Festival's Professional Training Program, The 24 Hour Plays: Nationals, Rule of 7x7 at The Tank, Wyrld Sisters Productions, The Sewanee Writers' Conference (Romulus Linney Scholar), Barn Arts, The Center at West Park, and The Samuel French Off-Off Broadway Short Play Festival. Shara's play *Little Lives* was a finalist for the 2019 National Playwrights

Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center. Shara was the 2018-19 Roundtables and Casting Apprentice at The Lark and is a member of the Dramatists Guild.

Little Lives is directed by Sharifa Eklady and the cast includes Ann Arvia, Silvia Bond, Ann-Marie Cusson, Tatiana Gil, Sarina Freda, and Lyndsay Allyn Cox.

Following the reading of *Little Lives*, audience members will have the opportunity to discuss the questions that the play poses.

The play reading is at 7:00pm in the Fielding Stage. Tickets are free and, due to the popularity of this series, are limited to two per person. Reservations are recommended. Due to anticipated demand, all unclaimed tickets will be released at 6:45pm on the day of performance. Patron discretion is advised: *Little Lives* deals with adult subject matter. To reserve tickets phone the Box Office: (585) 232-Geva (4382) or reserve online at www.gevatheatre.org.

The Fielding Stage is supported in part by the Gouvernet Arts Fund at The Rochester Area Community Foundation. Leadership support for the Hornet's Nest is provided by The Mary S. Mulligan Charitable Trust, and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

GEVA THEATRE CENTER

Founded in 1972, Geva Theatre Center is a not-for-profit theatre company dedicated to creating and producing professional theatre productions, programs and services of a national standard. As Rochester's flagship professional theatre, Geva 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 20,000 students.

Geva operates two venues – the 516-seat Elaine P. Wilson Stage and the 180-seat Ron & Donna Fielding Stage. As one of the country's leading theatre companies and a member of the national League of Resident Theatres, Geva produces a varied contemporary repertoire from musicals to world premieres celebrating the rich tapestry of our diverse community. The theatre draws upon the talents of some of the country's top actors, directors, designers and writers who are shaping the American Theatre scene.

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.

For more information: GevaTheatre.org

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