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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Geva's *Festival of New Theatre 2011* Line-Up Announced**

*Hot new scripts, great performers and your imagination*

**Rochester, N.Y., October 6, 2011** - Geva Theatre Center unveils its line-up for the *Festival of New Theatre 2011* to be held in the Nextstage from October 20 - 30. *FONT2011* is a vibrant and innovative mix of new works by some of the most exciting playwrights from across the country and around the corner.

### **Playwrights from across the country**

#### ***When You're Here* by Samuel D. Hunter**

Thursday, October 20 @ 7pm

Saturday, October 22 @ 7pm

It's Famiglia Week at the Olive Garden on the brink of extinction in Pocatello, Idaho, where corporate culture has become *the* culture. As two families try to reconcile past and present, they search for a new definition of home, a new way to relate to the world – and to each other.

#### ***Ups & Downs* by Michael Hollinger**

Friday, October 21 @ 7pm

Saturday, October 23 @ 7pm

*Ups & Downs* is a series of eight interconnected short plays, bookended by stories in an elevator. The characters try desperately for connection and hope with both humor and gravity, even in defiance of the physical laws that press upon them.

#### ***Wake Up, Mrs. Moore* by Julie Marie Myatt**

Thursday, October 27 @ 7pm

Sunday, October 30 @ 3pm

It is 1970 and Virginia Moore is in love with Glenn, but she is also attempting to change her future by protesting for Equal Rights for Women. At a rally, she is knocked unconscious by a beer bottle and lapses into a coma. Forty years pass by as Glenn tends to her, waiting for her recovery. When she miraculously awakes in 2011, Virginia has evolved, and the two have to piece together a new relationship.

### **Playwrights from around the corner**

## **Regional Writer**

***In the Territories*, by Mark R. Jabaut**

Wednesday, October 26 @ 7pm

Long-time cowboy partners Lazarus and Emmitt get more than they bargained for when they agree to take young Charlie to New Mexico. A play about relationships, responsibility, and the need to find just the right word.

## **Young Writers Showcase**

Saturday, October 22 @ 3pm

Sunday, October 23 @ 3pm

***Reformation*, by Liam Henrie:** Against the background of the Lutheran Reformation, a father-son relationship is tested when the son reveals a secret. Playwright Liam Henrie is a senior at Brighton High School.

***And We Have Seen You Through Everything*, by Madeleine Feldman:** A twelve year old boy doesn't need his stuffed bear anymore...or does he? Playwright Madeleine Feldman is a junior at School of the Arts.

***Battleship*, by Clare Stich:** A board game forces an ex-couple to talk to one another. Playwright Clare Stich is a 2011 graduate of Pittsford Sutherland High School and attends the University of Pittsburgh.

***Art Class*, by Valerie Sigl:** Madame Dupont is sure she knows what art is, until she meets new student Tanner. Playwright Valerie Sigl is a senior at School of the Arts

***The Only Two Fish in the Sea*, by Katie Wolkin:** A girl and her grandfather love their time fishing together, but things have changed. Playwright Katie Wolkin is 2011 graduate of Pittsford Sutherland High School and attends Colgate University.

***Hero Syndrome*, by Krystalyn Sadwick:** One of the students at a school for dragon slayers is stricken with a dreaded occupational hazard. Playwright Krystalyn Sadwick is a 2011 graduate of Hilton High School and currently attends SUNY Geneseo.

The plays will be presented in an informal, script-in-hand performance format and, with the exception of the Young Writer's Showcase, are followed by a discussion with the playwright. *The Festival of New Theatre 2011* is part of Geva Theatre Center's ongoing commitment to developing and producing new work for the American theatre.

Admission to the *Festival of New Theatre 2011* readings is free, but reservations are required. Due to the popularity of this event, patrons are limited to two tickets per person. Call the Geva Theatre Center Box Office at 585-232-Geva (4382) or visit [www.gevatheatre.org](http://www.gevatheatre.org) for tickets. Play readings sell out quickly, but tickets often become available the night of the performance.

## **THE PLAYWRIGHTS**

**Michael Hollinger** is the author of *Ghost-Writer*, *Opus*, *Tooth and Claw*, *Red Herring*, *Incorruptible*, *An Empty Plate in the Cafe Du Grand Boeuf*, and *Tiny Island*, all of which premiered at Philadelphia's Arden Theatre Company. These plays have enjoyed numerous productions around the country, in New York City, and abroad. His new musical *A Wonderful Noise* (co-authored with Vance Lehmkuhl) has received the Frederick Loewe Award for Musical Theatre, the "In the Spirit of America" Award from the Barbara Barondess MacLean Foundation, and a developmental production at Creede Repertory Theatre. His new translation/co-adaptation (with Aaron

Posner) of *Cyrano De Bergerac* premiered in 2011 at the Folger Theatre in Washington, D.C. Other awards include a Harold & Mimi Steinberg New Play Citation from the American Theatre Critics Association, a Roger L. Stevens Award from the Kennedy Center's Fund for New American Plays, a Mid-Atlantic Emmy Award, an Edgerton Foundation New American Plays Award, the F. Otto Haas Award for an Emerging Theatre Artist, two Barrymore Awards for Outstanding New Play, a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award, nominations for Lucille Lortel and John Gassner Awards, and fellowships from the Independence Foundation, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, and Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Michael is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Villanova University, and a proud alumnus of New Dramatists.

**Samuel D. Hunter's** recent plays include *A Bright New Boise* (2011 OBIE award for playwriting, 2011 Drama Desk Nomination for Best Play; produced originally by Partial Comfort Productions, NYC, upcoming production at Woolly Mammoth Theater Company), *The Whale* (upcoming production at Denver Center in Winter 2012), *Jack's Precious Moment* (Page 73 Productions at 59E59), *Five Genocides* (Clubbed Thumb at the Ohio Theater), *Norway* (Phoenix Theatre of Indianapolis; Boise Contemporary Theater), *I Am Montana* (Arcola Theatre, London; Mortar Theater, Chicago). He has active commissions from MTC/Sloan, Seattle Rep, South Coast Rep, and Boise Contemporary Theater. His plays have been developed at the O'Neill Playwrights Conference, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, PlayPenn, Ojai Playwrights Conference, the Lark Playwrights Workshop, Juilliard School, LAByrinth, Rattlestick, Seven Devils Playwrights Conference, 24Seven Lab and elsewhere. Internationally, his work has been translated into Spanish and presented in Mexico City and Monterrey, and he has worked in the West Bank with Ashtar Theatre of Ramallah and Ayyam al-Masrah of Hebron. At Ashtar, he co-wrote *The Era of Whales* which was performed in Ramallah and Istanbul. Awards: 2011 Sky Cooper Prize, 2008-2009 PONY Fellowship from the Lark, two Lincoln Center Le Compte du Nuoy Awards, others. He is a member of Partial Comfort Productions and is an alumnus of Ars Nova's Playgroup. He has taught at Fordham University, Rutgers University, Marymount Manhattan College and The University of Iowa. A native of northern Idaho, Sam lives in New York City. He holds degrees in playwriting from NYU, The Iowa Playwrights Workshop and Juilliard School.

**Julie Marie Myatt's** play *The Happy Ones* premiered at South Coast Repertory, and won the LA Drama Critic Circle's Ted Schmitt Award for Outstanding New Play. *Welcome Home, Jenny Sutter* premiered at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and a tour of that production went to the Kennedy Center as part of the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays. Her play *Someday*, premiered as part of Cornerstone Theater's Justice Cycle. Her play *My Wandering Boy* premiered at South Coast Repertory in the 2007, was part of Pacific Playwrights Festival, and was also produced in New York as part of the 2007 Summer Play Festival. *Boats On A River* premiered at the Guthrie Theater, was a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, and was recorded for the LA Theatre works radio play series, "The Play's The Thing". Her ten-minute play, *Mr. and Mrs.* premiered at the 2007 Humana Festival. Her play *The Sex Habits of American Women* was produced by the Guthrie Theater, among others, and premiered at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco. Her work has been developed or seen at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Seattle Rep, Cherry Lane, A.S.K. Theatre Projects, LAByrinth Theater Company, Denver Center Theatre Company, ACT Seattle, among others. She received a Walt Disney Studios Screenwriting Fellowship, a Jerome Fellowship at the Playwrights' Center, and a McKnight Advancement Grant. *Wake Up, Mrs. Moore* is a commission from Roundabout Theatre Co. She is also working on commissions for Yale Repertory, and Center Theatre Group. She is an ensemble member of Cornerstone Theater Company, and a resident member of New Dramatists.

**Regional Writer Mark Jabaut** lives in Webster, NY with his wife Nancy, two dogs and some children. An excerpt from one of his plays was published in the Spring 2011 edition of the *Ozone Park Journal*, and is currently working on a number of other plays, short stories and a novel. He has a real job, but looks forward to the day when he can write full time.

### **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 attended in the country, attracting over 170,000 patrons annually, including more than 16,000 students.

The 552-seat Elaine P. Wilson Mainstage offers a wide variety of shows, from musicals to American and world classics. The 180-seat Ron & Donna Fielding Nextstage is home to Geva's own series of cutting-edge drama, comedy and musical theatre; Geva Comedy Improv; Geva's New Play Reading Series and the Hornet's Nest - an innovative play-reading series facilitating community-wide discussion on controversial topics. The Nextstage also 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 led by Artistic Director Mark Cuddy.

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