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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCES GRANT TO GEVA THEATRE CENTER

\$20,000 grant will support Geva's production of August Wilson's Radio Golf

November 26, 2010. Rochester, NY—Rocco Landesman, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, has announced that Geva Theatre Center has been approved for a grant of \$20,000 to support its production of August Wilson's *Radio Golf*. Geva is one of 1,057 not-for-profit organizations recommended for a grant as part of the federal agency's first round of fiscal year 2011 grants. In total, the Arts Endowment will distribute \$26.68 million to support projects nationwide.

An independent agency of the federal government, the National Endowment for the Arts advances artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman said, "I continue to be impressed with the creative, innovative, and excellent projects brought forward by arts organizations across the country. Our grantees are not only furthering their art forms but also enhancing their neighborhoods by making them more vibrant, livable, and fun."

"Geva Theatre Center is proud to receive this national endorsement of our commitment to excellence, and especially pleased that funding will go towards our unique series: "August Wilson's American Century,"" commented Geva's Artistic Director Mark Cuddy. "We are the only theatre in America that has produced all ten plays of August Wilson in decade order over five years."

This grant from the NEA will help underwrite the final installment of Geva Theatre Center's five-year August Wilson's American Century Project. Specifically, the NEA's funding will support our Mainstage production of August Wilson's *Radio Golf* directed by Timothy Bond and opening in March 2011; a free reading of Wilson's *King Hedley II*; and ancillary activities as the culmination of this landmark project.

GEVA THEATRE CENTER

Geva Theatre Center is Rochester's leading professional theatre and the most attended regional theatre in New York State. Founded in 1972, Geva attracts over 160,000 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; What's Next: 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.

THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The **National Endowment for the Arts** was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government that has awarded more than \$4 billion on projects of artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector. To join the discussion on how art works, visit the National Endowment for the Arts at arts.gov.

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