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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# **BILL EVANS DANCE AND FUTURPOINTE DANCE PRESENT INNOVATIVE CONTEMPORARY DANCE IN THE NEXTSTAGE**

*The Nextstage hosts contemporary dance festival featuring two of Rochester's most dynamic dance companies.*

**March 22, 2011. Rochester, N.Y.** – Geva Theatre Center is delighted to welcome two of the area's most dynamic dance companies for their Nextstage debut with two weekends of innovative dance.

**Bill Evans Dance** will open the festival with a program of rhythm tap and contemporary dance pieces in a variety of styles. The company, which makes its Geva debut, has been described as “excellent and fearless technicians and theatrical performers.” Bill Evans has been named one of America's three favorite tap dance artists by *Dance Magazine*. His company has performed in all 50 states and 22 other countries. The program in the Nextstage will include seven Rochester premieres, including both award-winning modern dance choreography and classic and contemporary rhythm tap dance, to live jazz piano.

**FuturPointe** Dance returns to the Nextstage following a successful run this past fall with a program that explores the exciting convergence of dance and mixed media,. The show's creators present an eclectic mix of imagistic and sensory experiences, based on the multi-national cast's diverse repertoire of global dance styles. Work presented will include choreography by Guy Thorne and Heather Roffe, and a new work choreographed on the company by guest artist, Chris Walker, Assistant Professor at University of Wisconsin/Madison, will make its Rochester debut. The piece deals with issues of immigration, cultural displacement, urbanism, and competition. “The FuturPointe dancers...are electric, with deceptively relaxed movements and fabulous rhythms.” *The Capital Times*

Bill Evans Dance and FuturPointe Dance appear in the Geva Nexstage as part of “Celebrating August” – a series of performances by local performing arts groups coinciding with the Mainstage production of *Radio Golf*, the finale of Geva's five-year “August Wilson's American Century” Series.

**For further information, photographs or to arrange interviews, please contact:  
Dawn Kellogg, Communications Manager, (585) 232 1366 x 3059**

**PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:**

**Bill Evans Dance Performances**

Thursday, April 8 @ 7:00pm

Sunday, April 10 @ 7:00pm

Thursday, April 14 @ 7:00pm

Sunday, April 17 @ 2:00pm

**FuturPointe Dance Performances**

Saturday, April 9 @ 7:00pm

Sunday, April 10 @ 2:00pm

Friday, April 15 @ 7:00pm

Saturday, April 16 @ 7:00pm

**TICKET PRICES:**                   **\$20 for Adults, \$15 for Students and Seniors  
See both companies for \$30!**

**RESERVATIONS:**               **232-Geva or via the website: [www.gevatheatre.org](http://www.gevatheatre.org)**

**LOCATION:**                         **Geva Theatre Center, 75 Woodbury Blvd, Rochester, NY 14607**

**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 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.

**FUTURPOINTE DANCE**

FuturPointe Dance was formed as an initiative to broaden the appeal and spectatorship of contemporary dance. FuturPointe Dance is a fusion company - combining dancers and choreographic styles from a variety of genres and training, including modern dance, popular/social/folk dance, Caribbean, African, Latin, and ballet.

The company roster is culturally diverse, with dancers hailing from Jamaica, Guyana, the Ukraine, New Orleans, and New York. Weekly classes are open to the Rochester community, and company members are actively involved in residencies and performances that educate, entertain, and promote the vitality and global presence of contemporary dance.

Current company members include Guy Thorne, Heather Roffe, N'Jelle Gage, Melinda Phillips, William J. Knighten, and apprentices Olga Kravets And Libby Miga. The company is co-directed by Guy Thorne, Heather Roffe and N'Jelle Gage.

For more information visit [www.futurpointedance.org](http://www.futurpointedance.org)

## **BILL EVANS DANCE**

The Bill Evans Dance Company, founded in 1975, was for several years the most-booked professional dance troupe in the U.S. It was founded primarily to serve as an outlet for Evans' choreography, which has been recognized with numerous awards and commissions, including a Guggenheim Fellowship and numerous fellowships and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and several state and regional arts agencies. The company has performed in all 50 states, throughout Mexico and Canada and in many countries in Europe, Asia and Australasia. It is one of the few professional companies performing both contemporary dance and rhythm tap dance, sometimes in separate works and sometimes interwoven in a single work. It was based in Seattle through 1983 and then in Albuquerque through 2004. Mr. Evans became an artist in residence at The College at Brockport in 2004. Since that time, his company has worked on a project basis and performs regularly in Rochester and elsewhere in Western New York.

For more information, visit [www.billevansdance.org](http://www.billevansdance.org).

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