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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Geva Hosts Regional Writers Showcase

Rochester, N.Y. April 27, 2011 ... Geva Theatre Center will host two exciting evenings full of new work by area playwrights. The 17th annual **Regional Writers Showcase** will take place at 6pm on May 2 and May 9. The script-in-hand performances will take place in the Nextstage at Geva Theatre Center.

The **Regional Writers Showcase**, a collaboration between Geva and Writers & Books, gives area playwrights the opportunity to bring their works to local audiences, showcased by professional actors, directors and dramaturgs. The four featured scripts were selected from over 30 plays that were submitted after a call for work. The showcase is part of Geva's ongoing *What's Next* series of new play programs. After each reading, there will be a discussion with the playwrights, directors and audience.

Monday, May 2, 6:00pm

Ping

By Nancy Preston Stark

Life changes dramatically for Dick and his wife when the doctor prescribes Viagra, but not in the ways they expected. Could your life use a little more...ping?

Monday, May 9, 6:00pm

Shoplifting 101

By Carolyn Kourosfsky

If you are past retirement and tempted to begin a life of crime in your local supermarket, be careful. You might get caught...or schooled by a teenage shoplifter.

My Best Friend

By Peter Toner

Jack took his best friend for a ride – a really scary ride. A story about what true friendship demands and what it can bear.

In the Territories

By Mark Jabaut

Two cowboys, who have been partners for decades, take on more than they bargained for when they rescue young Charlie from a desperado named Bear. Try not to quake in your boots.

**Tickets are free but must be reserved in advance.
Call 232-Geva (4382) to reserve tickets.**

NANCY PRESTON STARK

Nancy Preston Stark has received recognition for several plays since she started writing ten years ago. *Pea Soup*, a one-act play, was included in the 2005 Geva Regional Playwright's Festival. *Roast Beef* was produced at the St. John Fisher Festival of One Acts (2007). She received first prize for *War Rhythm* and Second Prize for *The Knitters*, at Black Sheep Theater's Festival of New and Emerging Artists (2008). *War Rhythm* was produced in Rome, NY as part of the Rome Community Theater's annual state-wide One-Act Play Festival (2010). Before being revised and expanded, *Ping* was produced as a one-act play by Greater Rochester Repertory Companies, Inc. (2010). Nancy wishes to thank Ken Higgins for his support in the development of *Ping* as a full-length play.

CAROLYN E. KOUROFSKY

Carolyn E. Kourofsky's play *Survival of the Season* was part of Geva's 2010 Regional Writers Showcase. Two other pieces, *A Necessary Provision* and *Leave a Message*, have been presented at the 2010 and 2011 Writers and Books/Geva Theatre collaboration 2 Pages/2 Voices. Her other scriptwriting projects are eclectic, ranging from the narration for an animated online game to the Dance Mystery Theatre piece *Death by Paso Doblé*. Her screenplay for a *Vanity Fair*/ *Veuve Clicquot* contest won her a trip to Hollywood (and, more importantly to her husband Kevin, a case of champagne). She provides writing services and online content as Doing Good by Writing Well.

PETE TONERY

Pete Tonery is proprietor of CarrotStick Creative, LLC, a marketing consultancy. He is a part-time lecturer in Film studies in the St. John Fisher Arts program and recently directed two one-act plays at SJFC in honor of the 100th anniversary of Tennessee Williams. Mr. Tonery is a member of the Town of Hamlin Planning Board and is on the Board of CenterStage at the JCC. Mr. Tonery lives on a small, almost sustainable, farm near Lake Ontario where he and his wife grow organic vegetables and meats. He is a 2010 graduate of Empire State College with a BA in Film Studies and Production. This is the third time he has been fortunate enough to be selected in the Geva Regional Playwrights Contest. He wishes to extend his gratitude to Geva Theatre Center for this honor and for the important cultural contribution of supporting and encouraging local playwrights.

MARK JABAUT

Mark Jabaut lives in Webster, NY with his wife Nancy, two dogs and some children. He has a play excerpt scheduled to be 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.

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

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 Hornets' 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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