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GEVA THEATRE CENTER NAMES 2011 LEGACY AWARD WINNER

*Patrick Fulford honored for his dedication and service to
New York State's largest regional theatre*

Rochester, N.Y., June 15, 2011 – One of the highlights of Geva Theatre Center's calendar is the annual Directors' Forum Dinner, a gala event honoring the theatre's major donors. Part of the program for this event, held at the end of each season, is the presentation of the Legacy Award to honor an individual or individuals who have demonstrated exemplary service to the theatre and have made an impact on the life and longevity of the nearly forty-year old cultural establishment.

At this year's function on June 13th, **Artistic Director Mark Cuddy** and **Executive Director Tom Parrish**, with Trustee and former Legacy Award Winner **Linda Cornell-Weinstein**, presented the Legacy Award to a gentleman whose dedication to the theatre exemplifies this honor. **Patrick Fulford** has served the theatre since 1994 when he was elected to the board of Trustees. He served as Treasurer of the board from 1995 until his term as Chairman began in 2000. He was elected to the Honorary Board in 2006.

"Since my arrival in 1995, Patrick Fulford has shown enormous trustee leadership through his extraordinary ability to listen carefully, comprehend completely, and communicate clearly," commented Mark Cuddy. "He also is a tireless and passionate cheerleader for Geva. Patrick has been an inspiration to me and all those fortunate enough to have his light shine on them."

Former Legacy Award winners include Helen Berkeley, Linda Cornell Weinstein, Ron and Donna Fielding, Tom and Nan Hildebrandt, Nannette Nocon, Herbert Rees, Robert Saltzman, and Jean Gordon Ryon, among others.

Patrick Fulford was presented with this coveted award, designed by local artist Nancy Gong. The stunning blue glass piece is designed as a "Blessing Scroll," the intention of which is to wish and remind the recipient of good things in life – good fortune, good health, longevity, long-life, happiness and auspiciousness.

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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