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**BILL EVANS DANCE PRESENTS
AUTUMN LEAVES: HOT JAZZ/COOL TAP
IN THE NEXTSTAGE**

World- renowned tap artist Bill Evans returns to the Nextstage with a new show featuring Rhythm Tap Rochester and No Mean Feat Jazz Trio

August 30, 2011. Rochester, N.Y. – Geva Theatre Center is delighted to welcome back tap artist **Bill Evans** to the Nextstage with his new show – **Autumn Leaves: Hot Jazz/Cool Tap** – from September 30 to October 8.

Bill Evans Dance presents a program of rhythm tap, jazz vocals and modern tango accompanied by live jazz music. The program showcases **Rhythm Tap Rochester**, a new group featuring Evans, Cheryl Johnson and Courtney World. Along with guest artists Don Halquist and Leanne Rinelli from the internationally-acclaimed Bill Evans Dance Company, they will be accompanied by **No Mean Feat Jazz Trio** comprised of Gabe Condon on guitar, Alex Dugdale on clarinet and sax and Dominic Sbrega on bass with guest artists Danny Lopa on bass and Tamara Wilcox on piano.

Added guest tap dancers will be **ROC City Tappers** (made up of some of the best tappers from several Dance Rochester schools of dance) on September 30 and October 2 and **Oasis Tappers** (Rochester's amazing prime time tap troupe) on October 7 and 8.

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. **Autumn Leaves: Hot Jazz/Cool Tap** features a rich, stylistic variety of tap dance, instrumental and vocal jazz with some tango and blues for good measure.

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

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

Friday, September 30 @ 7:30pm

Sunday, October 2 @ 2pm
Friday, October 7 @ 7:30pm
Saturday, October 8 @ 7:30pm

TICKET PRICES: **\$20 for Adults, \$15 for Seniors and Groups**
\$10 Students and Children

RESERVATIONS: **232-Geva or via the website: www.gevatheatre.org**

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

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.

BILL EVANS DANCE and RHYTHM TAP ROCHESTER

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.

Founded in 2010, Rhythm Tap Rochester was formed through the combined forces of Bill Evans, Cheryl Johnson and Courtney World. It builds on the many years of successful tap productions created and performed by the Bill Evans Rhythm Tap Ensemble and Anacrusis Modern Tap Dance. It is dedicated to passing on the rich legacy of American rhythm tap dance and to the creation of new works fusing tap and contemporary dance styles.

For more information, visit www.billevansdance.org.

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