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AWARD-WINNING *NO CHILD...* DEBUTS AT GEVA

Off-Broadway hit shines light on urban education in US today

Local organizations band together to present powerful one-woman show

Rochester, NY – A consortium of local education and arts organizations called **Ad-Hoc Productions** has banded together to present the Rochester debut of the award-winning, off-Broadway hit, *No Child...*, in the **Nextstage at Geva Theatre Center** for eight public performances and two school matinees, **November 12 – 22**. Led by producers **Kristin Rapp**, founder and director of **ArtPeace, Inc.**, and **Jack Langerak**, director of **Rochester Wolf Trap at Nazareth**, the other organizations include **Western New York Leadership & Learning Network**, **Coalition for Common Sense in Education**, **Young Audiences of Rochester**, **St. John Fisher College**, **University of Rochester Warner School of Education**, **Kuumba Consultants**, **Nazareth College School of Education** and **SUNY Brockport**.

"It's critical that people see this snapshot of the realities of urban education as well as the power of arts integration in the classroom," states Rapp, whose five-year-old ArtPeace, Inc. works to educate and employ local underserved youth and adults through arts, recreation, technology and entrepreneurship. "The current one-size-fits-all regimen – along with over testing – is producing frustration, failure and the marginalization of things that *should* be happening in schools. Too many of our 'No Child Left Behind' students are being left behind!"

Separately, both she and Langerak had seen playwright and performer, **Nilaja Sun**, in her one-woman tour de force, *No Child...*, in NYC and each was "blown away" by its powerful honesty. The idea of bringing teaching artist Sun to Rochester, however, proved too expensive and risky, so the two decided to mount their own production featuring local teaching artist, poet and actress, **Reenah Golden**.

"Reenah is a Franklin High School grad, and knows all of the play's 16 characters from every angle," explains Langerak, who has taught and/or directed local arts-in-education programs for more than 35 years. "She brings each one to life right before your eyes – students, teachers, a principal, a security guard, a janitor and a teaching artist."

Directing the show is **Queen GodIs** (pronounced "God-iz") from Brooklyn, a frequent collaborator with Golden, but also a neighbor and friend to Sun herself. **Nilaja Sun will attend the Friday, November 20th performance and take part in the "community conversation" that follows each show.**

"This is an incredibly accessible show for all of its critical acclaim," says GodIs. "It will sink its teeth into your soul as well as your mind – it's both inspirational and entertaining."

Tickets to *No Child...* are \$20 (group discounts available) and can be purchased in person at the Geva Box Office (75 Woodbury Blvd., 14607), at www.gevatheatre.org or by calling 585-323-GEVA (4382). The complete performance schedule is: Thursday, Nov. 12 & 19 at 7 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 13 & 20 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 14 & 21 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 15 & 22 at 1:30 p.m. There are **two matinees for high school students** on Tuesday, Nov. 17 & Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 10:30 a.m. For booking school shows, please contact: Kristin Rapp at 585-802-2293 or kris@artpeace.org. Each show offers a post-performance "community conversation" with "responders."

Media, please note: High-resolution photos are available, and interviews and photo/footage opportunities may be arranged. Rehearsals are in progress, and will move to Geva's Nextstage the week of Nov. 9th.

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