

## **AACTFest**

March 6, 2009

After 10 months of working on a proposal, the President Elect of the Theatre Association of New York State (TANYS), Michael Arve announced that the American Association of Community Theatre Festival (AACT Fest) will be held in Rochester in June 2011. TANYS worked with VisitRochester and was selected by the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) from an initial field of 30 applicants from all over the country.

The Geva Theatre Center will be the venue for the Festival. This will continue Geva's commitment to enriching community theatre life in Rochester.

AACTFest will involve hundreds of volunteers from Rochester's community theatre groups and TANYS member companies across New York State. Twelve performing companies, including the overseas military, will perform on the Geva Stage. Over 500 people are expected to attend the event.

The 2011 Festival will include a Technical Theatre Conference offering workshops on lighting, stage design, costume design and other technical disciplines. This will be hosted by The Roberts Cultural Life Center at Roberts Wesleyan College. This portion of the festival will draw participants from community theatres, college theatres, high school theatres as well as many churches that produce plays.

AACT is the national community theatre organization, representing the interests of community theatres across the U.S, and the individuals who support them. The AACTFest presents a forum for community theatres from the ten regions of AACT to enter productions for adjudication and advancement from the state level, to the regional level, and finally, to the national level. AACTFest culminates in odd-numbered years.