

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Gina Hyams, PR Consultant

413.464.2851

ginahyams@gmail.com

A high-resolution photograph is available for download at
<http://www.mahaiwe.org/press.html>

Mahaiwe May Programming

Highlights include rock singer-songwriter John Hiatt, New Yorker science writer Michael Specter, and bestselling author Joe Klein, plus movies and a tea tasting

Great Barrington, Mass.— Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center will present a concert by rock singer-songwriter John Hiatt on Friday, May 6 at 8:00pm and a talk by *New Yorker* science writer Michael Specter on Friday, May 13 at 7:00pm. In addition, on Sunday, May 15 at 1:30pm, master tea blender Michael Harney of Harney & Sons Fine Teas will host a pre-broadcast tea tasting at Castle Street Café next door to the Mahaiwe before a 3:00pm encore broadcast of London’s National Theatre in HD production of *The Audience* by Peter Morgan. “We are very much looking forward to these exceptional and unusual spring events,” said Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly.

A master lyricist and satirical storyteller, John Hiatt weaves hidden plot twists into fictional tales on themes of redemption, relationships, growing older, and surrendering on one’s own terms. His songs have been recorded by artists as diverse as Bob Dylan, Bonnie Raitt (“Thing Called Love”), Emmylou Harris, Iggy Pop, Rosanne Cash (#1 country hit “The Way We Make A Broken Heart”), the Jeff Healey Band (“Angel Eyes”), and even the cartoon bear band of Disney’s film, *The Country Bears*. He earned a Grammy nomination for *Crossing Muddy Waters*, while B.B. King and Eric Clapton shared a Grammy for their album *Riding With The King*, the title track from which was a Hiatt composition. Hiatt has received his own star on Nashville’s Walk of Fame, the

Americana Music Association's Lifetime Achievement Award for Songwriting, has been inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, and was saluted at the Indiana Governor's Arts Awards.

Macon, Georgia-raised, Nashville, Tennessee-based rock n' roll singer-songwriter Rick Brantley will be the opening act for the Hiatt concert. Tickets are \$30 to \$70. Additionally, a limited number of \$15 tickets are available for audience members ages 30 and younger through the Mahaiwe ArtSmart Tix program.

Acclaimed science writer Michael Specter will give a lecture titled "The Possibilities and Perils of Editing the Human Genome." It is based on his article "The Gene Hackers: A powerful new technology enables us to manipulate our DNA more easily than ever before" published in *The New Yorker* on November 16, 2015. Specter has been a staff writer at *The New Yorker* since 1998. He focuses on science, technology, and public health. Since joining the magazine, he has written about agricultural biotechnology, the global AIDS epidemic, avian influenza, malaria, the world's diminishing freshwater resources, synthetic biology, the debate over the meaning of our carbon footprint, the effort to produce genetically modified mosquitoes to fight dengue fever, and new ways to edit DNA. He has also published many profiles, of subjects including PETA founder Ingrid Newkirk, Dr. Oz, the ethicist Peter Singer, Sean (P. Diddy) Combs, Manolo Blahnik, Miuccia Prada, and Richard Branson. Since 2012, Specter has been a Visiting Professor at Bard College, in the department of Environmental and Urban Affairs. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for students, and free for Mahaiwe members.

London's National Theatre in HD production of *The Audience* by Peter Morgan was so popular when it was first broadcast, the Mahaiwe is presenting another screening of it in conjunction with a special tea tasting by Michael Harney. The screening is also part of the OLLI/Mahaiwe Book Club, in partnership with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkshire Community College. Recorded in London's West End in 2013, *The Audience*, with Olivier and Tony Award winner Helen Mirren, returns to the big screen in celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday. Tickets are \$10 (tea only), \$17 (broadcast only),

and \$25 (both tea and broadcast). The tea tasting and broadcast are free to Mahaiwe members.

The Mahaiwe's May Movie of the Month is *The Graduate* (1967), starring Dustin Hoffman and Anne Bancroft, on Saturday, May 21 at 7:00pm. This Mike Nichols-directed movie was selected for preservation in the U.S. National Film Registry and, when figures are adjusted for inflation, population and trends, it is the second-most popular film of all time. The Mahaiwe's new Film Noir Classics Series will kick off with *The Big Sleep* (1946), a film about the criminal investigation process—not the results—on Saturday, May 28 at 7:00pm. Starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall, the movie was inducted into the National Film Registry in 1997. Don Buchwald & Associates sponsors the Mahaiwe Movies of the Month Series and Deb and Bill Ryan sponsor the Film Noir Classics Series. Tickets are \$7 (general admission).

In addition, the Mahaiwe will host the OLLI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkshire Community College 2016 Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture, featuring bestselling author and *Time* magazine columnist Joe Klein on Friday, May 27 at 6:00pm. He will give a talk titled "How on Earth Did We Get Here? The Chaotic Politics of 2016." Admission is free.

The Mahaiwe is located at 14 Castle Street in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Box office hours are Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 6:00pm and three hours before show times. For tickets and information, see www.mahaiwe.org or call 413.528.0100.

About the Mahaiwe

Located in downtown Great Barrington, Massachusetts, the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center is the year-round presenter of world-class music, dance, theater, classic films, Live in HD broadcasts, and arts education programs for the southern Berkshires and neighboring regions. The intimate jewel box of a theater opened in 1905. Since 2005, the performing arts center has hosted over 1,000 events and welcomed almost half a million

people through its doors. Its education program has served over 12,000 students from 35 different schools with school-time performances and residencies. The Mahaiwe generates in excess of \$1,000,000 in ticket revenue from 150 events each year, while contributing over \$4,000,000 in regional economic impact from the theater's direct spending and audience's restaurant, lodging, and shopping activities.