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<http://www.mahaiwe.org/press.html>

### **Mahaiwe Announces Array of Community Programming**

#### **Highlights include Summer Film Noir Classics Series, Great Barrington Heritage Day, Free Fun Friday, and more**

Great Barrington, Mass.— Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center Executive Director Beryl Jolly today announced an array of community programming, including a summer Film Noir Series, Great Barrington Heritage Day, Free Fun Friday, and more. “The Mahaiwe is presenting an array of unique events with low cost and free programs to welcome and celebrate our community,” said Jolly.

#### **Movies**

“It is always a treat to welcome audiences to monthly movies at the Mahaiwe, and we are thrilled to kick off our new Film Noir Classics Series with superb, riveting films,” said Jolly. “We greatly appreciate the support of Don Buchwald & Associates and Deb and Bill Ryan who sponsor these screenings so we can keep ticket prices very affordable. The community’s affection for the Mahaiwe’s many decades as a popular movie house will also be spotlighted with our participation in GB Heritage Day in June, and we’ll offer a free family film during Free Fun Friday in August.”

The Film Noir Classics Series kicks 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. *The Third Man* (1949) will be screened on Saturday, June 25 at 7:00pm. In it, Joseph Cotten portrays Holly Martins, a writer swept into a murder. Based on

screenwriter Graham Greene's novel of the same name, *The Third Man* is celebrated for its acting, score, and cinematography. *Sunset Boulevard* (1950), a dramatic study of Hollywood behind the scenes, follows on Saturday, July 16 at 7:00pm. The film stars William Holden as Joe Gillis, a struggling screenwriter, and Gloria Swanson as Norma Desmond, a fading Hollywood actress. The series concludes with *Chinatown* (1974), a mystery about the California Water Wars starring Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway, on Friday, August 5 at 7:00pm. Considered "neo-noir" — inspired by film noir but with updated visuals, content, and style — Roman Polanski's *Chinatown* was added to the National Film Registry and won an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay. Tickets are \$7 (general admission) per film.

Upcoming Mahaiwe Movies of the Month include *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. In conjunction with the Paul Taylor Dance Company's annual summer engagement, the Mahaiwe will screen the Paul Taylor documentary, *Dancemaker* (1998), on Sunday, July 17 at 3:00pm. The film reveals the master choreographer's genius, his roots, his method of working with dancers, and his sometimes-difficult nature. Tickets are \$7 (general admission) per film; *Dancemaker* is free to Mahaiwe members.

### **Great Barrington Heritage Day**

GB Heritage Day will take place on Saturday, June 18 from 9:00am to 9:00pm. "I am delighted to announce this community collaboration," said Jolly. "Our consortium agrees that this day of festivities will celebrate the Housatonic River and Watershed as well as the region's agriculture, industry, and culture—showcasing the spirit of independence that has made Great Barrington so vibrant for more than 250 years."

Events include a guided canoe paddle, bike ride, outdoor walks, downtown tours, and screenings of three classic movies at the Mahaiwe: *Snow White and the Seven*

*Dwarfs* (1937, rated G) at 10:00am, *King Kong* (1933, rated PG-13) at 4:00pm, and *Pretty Poison* (1968, rated R), which was filmed in Great Barrington and stars Anthony Perkins and Tuesday Weld, at 7:00pm. At 12:00pm and 1:00pm, two behind-the-scenes tours of the Mahaiwe Theater will be led by long-time technical director Maia Robbins-Zust, and Paul Kakley who has served as Mahaiwe movie projectionist for 40 years. They will describe the many theatrical and film modernizations of the jewel-box 1905 historic theater and share numerous stories of their decades behind the scenes. (Note that this tour includes staircases to the backstage Green Room and Upper Balcony.) At 2:00pm, community members are invited to join Barby Cardillo on the stage of the Mahaiwe to share personal recollections and local history in a guided Story Circle.

At 9:00am, participants will meet in front of the Mahaiwe for an opportunity to “Explore Our Watershed” through a 3.5 mile guided hike with Christine Ward to Lake Mansfield. After the hike, Rachel Fletcher will lead a tour of the Housatonic River Walk and the William Stanley and W.E.B. DuBois exhibits. Later, Dennis Regan of the Housatonic Valley Association will lead a canoe paddle down the Housatonic River to the Sheffield covered bridge. (Canoe paddle reservations are extremely limited; early reservations are encouraged.)

Alternatively, a 9:00am bike ride led by GB Town Planner Chris Rembold will feature highlights of Great Barrington and Housatonic Village, including Rising Mills, Monument Mills, and the Guthrie Center, and joining a guided tour of the Truman Wheeler Farmstead at 817 South Main Street. Captain Truman Wheeler was a revolutionary war patriot and his Farmstead is now home to the GB Historical Society: Farmstead Tours will take place at 10:00am, 11:00am, 12:00pm, and 1:00pm.

From 9:00am to 11:00am, the Great Barrington Fairgrounds will offer a Photo Walk with photographers Bruce Panock and Lynnette Najimy offering photographers’ insights into the interesting natural landscape and historically significant photo opportunities.

At 9:30 am, meeting in front of the Mahaiwe, historian Bernie Drew will offer a 1.5 hour

“Alternative History Tour of downtown Great Barrington,” sharing aspects of town history not widely known.

The GB Farmers Market will be open on Church Street from 9:00am to 1:00pm; as part of GB Heritage Day, Alice Maggio, Susan Witt, Harry Conklin, and others will offer a 12:00pm Lunch Talk on “The History of Indian Line Farm: Birthplace of Community Supported Agriculture and an Unconventional Approach to Land Tenure.”

At 12:00pm and 2:00pm, explore the life and legacy of Great Barrington’s native son, W.E.B. Du Bois. Join David Glassberg and Camesha Scruggs for a free, guided walking tour of the Du Bois Homesite, Route 23, Great Barrington.

At 1:00pm, Bernie Drew will offer a two-hour moderate hike on “How to Find Iron Industry History in the Woods,” starting at Fountain Pond on Three Mile Hill Trail, with some bushwacking along an old charcoal road.

Many downtown restaurants will feature special offers and tastings from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

GB Heritage Day partners include Berkshares, Great Barrington Fairgrounds, Great Barrington Farmers Market, Great Barrington Historical Society, Great Barrington Land Conservancy, Great Barrington Trails and Greenways, Housatonic Heritage, Housatonic River Walk, Housatonic Valley Association, Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce, W.E.B. DuBois National Historic Site, and the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center. Buttons offering access to all events are \$5 and available at the Mahaiwe box office, 14 Castle Street, [413.528.0100](tel:413.528.0100). Advance reservations are recommended as many tours and activities have limited capacity.

### **Free Fun Friday**

This year’s Mahaiwe Free Fun Friday, sponsored by the Highland Street Foundation, will take place on Friday, August 12. Beloved Berkshire entertainer David Grover and

Grover's Gang will celebrate family favorite songs with a concert at 10:00am. Grover, former lead guitarist for Arlo Guthrie, uses his songs to teach children about the important things in life, such as holidays with family, planet preservation, and respecting one another. In addition, at 1:00pm, the Mahaiwe will offer a free screening of the 1964 movie classic *Mary Poppins*.

### **OLLI/Mahaiwe Book Club**

In partnership with OLLI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkshire Community College, the Mahaiwe recently launched the OLLI/Mahaiwe Book Club. The group reads and discusses books related to Mahaiwe performances and gets discounted tickets to the shows. The group began with author David Sedaris and will continue reading books related to the London's National Theatre HD broadcast of Peter Morgan's *The Audience*, author Joe Klein, Paul Taylor Dance Company, jazz saxophonist Joshua Redman, and New Orleans music legend Buckwheat Zydeco. To join OLLI and sign up for the book group, contact Megan Whilden at 413.236.2192.

### **Tickets**

The Mahaiwe is located at 14 Castle Street in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Box office hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 12:00pm to 6:00pm and three hours before show times. For tickets and information, see [www.mahaiwe.org](http://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. The Mahaiwe has now welcomed over 15,000 students from 55 different schools for its 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.