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High-resolution photographs are available for download at
<http://www.mahaiwe.org/press.html>

Mahaiwe to Present Alan Cumming and Blues Traveler in 2018

Great Barrington, Mass.— Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center Executive Director Beryl Jolly announced today that the theater will present rock band Blues Traveler on Saturday, March 3 at 8:00pm and Broadway and television star Alan Cumming on Sunday, July 15 at 7:00pm.

“We’re psyched to bring Blues Traveler to the Mahaiwe for the first time in early March. That jam band energy will get us all on our feet for an incredible night this winter,” said Jolly. “And we’re thrilled to bring Alan Cumming back to the Mahaiwe for a 2018 summer highlight,” said Jolly. “His 2016 Mahaiwe gala performance in *Alan Cumming Sings Sappy Songs* showcased his incredible talent and his accessibility as an individual; this new show, *Alan Cumming: Legal Immigrant*, promises to be equally brilliant.”

Blues Traveler emerged in the late ‘80s and are best known for their improvisational live shows and tireless touring, and their breakthrough, multi-platinum selling album *Four*, which earned them a Grammy for Best Rock Performance and features hit singles “Run-Around” and “Hook.” Throughout their career the band has released 20 full-length albums with their most recent, *Blow Up the Moon*, being a collaborative effort featuring a range of artists across the musical spectrum, representing country, pop, reggae and hip-hop. Throughout their extensive career, Blues Traveler has earned a massive fan base of dedicated and loyal followers and continues to do so with each performance.

Blues Traveler—John Popper (lead vocals, harmonica), Chan Kinchla (guitar), Tad Kinchla (bass), Brendan Hill (drums), and Ben Wilson (keyboard) —have a proven reputation for their improvisational live shows. With a total of twelve studio albums—four gold, three platinum, and one six-times platinum—they have sold more than 10 million combined units worldwide, and played over 2,000 live shows in front of more than 30 million people. Their hit “Run-Around” is the longest-charting radio single in Billboard history, and earned them a Grammy for Best Rock Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals.

The group's most recent release, *Blow Up The Moon*, was its first collaborative album. Keeping an open-minded perspective on making music, the unique and successful process enlisted a range of artists across the musical spectrum, representing country, pop, reggae, and hip-hop.

“Time to load up the gear and get the BT party bus rolling!” said keyboardist Ben Wilson. “We are pumped to be back on the road and rocking out for all the BT fans out there!”

Alan Cumming will present his new show, *Alan Cumming: Legal Immigrant*. “I think America is actually still a land of opportunity. You can come from somewhere else and magic things can happen,” said Cumming.

Cumming is an actor and activist and, according to the *New York Times*, “a bawdy countercultural sprite.” *Time Magazine* named him one of the most fun people in show business. He played political maverick Eli Gold on CBS’s *The Good Wife*, for which he received Golden Globe, Emmy, SAG, and Satellite award nominations. He won a Tony Award playing the Emcee in the Broadway musical *Cabaret*.

His diverse career has found him performing at venues around the globe, including the Sydney Opera House; making back-to-back films with Stanley Kubrick and The Spice Girls; directing and starring in a musical condom commercial; creating voices of a Smurf,

a goat, and Hitler; entering upside down and suspended by his ankles in a Greek tragedy (in the National Theatre of Scotland's *The Bacchae*); and recording an award-winning album of songs (plus a dance remix).

Cumming has also won over thirty awards for his humanitarianism and social activism, received both the Great Scot and Icon of Scotland awards from his homeland and was made an OBE (Officer of the British Empire) for his contributions to the arts and LGBT equality. He lives in New York City and Edinburgh with his husband, illustrator Grant Shaffer, and their dogs, Jerry and Lala.

“These unique shows are sure to sell out. Become a member of the Mahaiwe now for access to the best seats and ticket discounts, as well as invitations to special members-only events,” said Jolly. “Don’t forget: theater tickets make amazing holiday gifts!”

Tickets

Tickets to Blues Traveler (\$49 to \$89) and Alan Cumming (\$31 to \$146) go on sale to Mahaiwe members on Friday, December 8 and to the general public on Friday, December 15. 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. For information on Mahaiwe Memberships call 413.644.9040 ext. 106.

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 over half a million people through its doors. More than 18,000 students from 61 different schools have benefited from the Mahaiwe’s school-time performances and residencies. For more information, see www.mahaiwe.org.

About the Berkshires

Less than three hours from New York City and Boston, the Berkshires region offers culture and adventure year-round. The surrounding mountains provide plenty of opportunity for outdoor excursions in all seasons while world class culture and entertainment, along with a deeply rooted food culture and an array of lodging options amidst picturesque towns, set this region apart. For more information, visit berkshires.org.

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