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

Mahaiwe Free Fun Friday: *MatheMagic!*

Great Barrington, Mass.—The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center presents Free Fun Friday: *MatheMagic!* on Friday, July 13 at 11:00am, followed by a break and then a magic tricks workshop at 1:00pm. Admission is free thanks to sponsorship by the Highland Street Foundation.

“We can’t wait for the Mahaiwe’s sixth Free Fun Friday! This year’s magic show, *Mathemagic!* starring Bradley Fields, will be unbelievable and unforgettable,” says Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly. “We’re delighted, too, that Bradley will teach a magic workshop after his performance. We love the special opportunities the Highland Street Foundation creates for communities across the Commonwealth.”

Internationally acclaimed magician and educator, Bradley Fields, captivates youngsters with his magic illusions and excites them about the history, power, and beauty of math. His one-hour show uses multimedia projections, stage illusions, comedy, drama, and audience interaction to promote math skills and problem solving. Since 1987, over two million children have experienced *MatheMagic!* in schools and performing arts centers nationwide.

Bradley Fields began performing professionally at the age of 14. Working as apprentice to actor-magician Jack Adams, he performed in schools, nightclubs, theaters, and on television. After earning a BA in Philosophy with a minor in Theater (SUNY, Purchase), he went to Paris where he studied mime with the great master Etienne Decroux while

introducing his highly unorthodox magic act into Parisian cabarets. Returning to New York, Fields toured college shows across the US, and throughout the late 70s, he was a featured act at Reno Sweeney's, Tramps, and other NY cabarets. After studying acting and directing for two years at the Stella Adler Conservatory, he created the role of the Barker for the hit Broadway musical, *Barnum!*, and designed magic for the show. With the birth of his children, he took some time off to teach in the New York City Public Schools. It was there that he conceived the idea of *MatheMagic!*.

The Highland Street Foundation is committed to addressing the most pressing needs and concerns for children and families in Massachusetts and California. It provides access and opportunities in education, housing, mentorship, health care, environment, and the arts. Since 2009, Free Fun Fridays has drawn more than 900,000 visitors to venues throughout the Commonwealth. The program has grown to include participating venues in every corner of the state, helping them open their doors for free to the community. Free Fun Fridays offer visitors no-cost admission to many of the most treasured cultural venues in Massachusetts. This program was created to increase access and enrichment opportunities for children and families throughout Massachusetts during the summer months. Every Friday, from the end of June through the end of August, multiple sites are open for free.

Reservations are not required for Free Fun Friday, but camp directors are encouraged to let the theater know in advance if they are planning to bring large groups. The Mahaiwe is located at 14 Castle Street in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Box office hours are Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 4:00pm 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 1,500 events and welcomed over half a million people through its doors. More than 20,000 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 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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