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

### **Whoopi Goldberg to Headline Mahaiwe Gala**

Great Barrington, Mass.—Whoopi Goldberg will headline the 2018 Mahaiwe Gala on Sunday, July 29 at 8:00pm in a festive evening to benefit the performing arts center's year-round programs and to honor founding board member Sharon Casdin.

“We’re thrilled to celebrate this season with Whoopi Goldberg as our 2018 Gala performer,” says Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly. “Her stellar talents cross many fields and genres. It promises to be a powerful and unforgettable night of entertainment with a one-of-a-kind performer.”

“We are delighted to be honoring a founding board member who has quietly done so much for this region. Sharon generously signed on to the Mahaiwe’s restoration 15 years ago because she understood what bringing back this community treasure would mean to Great Barrington and the surrounding towns,” says Mahaiwe Board Chair Maggie Buchwald. “Both with her presence at the theater and in her own life, she typifies much of what the Mahaiwe stands for; she is here year-round, usually with a group of friends, for a wide variety of performers. She takes joy in the art and in the sharing of it, and we are the richer for it.”

Whoopi Goldberg will share her unique observations on current events and a wide variety of topics that are on her mind. She will also entertain some questions from the audience. An actor, author, entrepreneur, and human rights advocate, as well as the moderator of the Emmy award-winning “The View,” Goldberg is one of an elite group of artists who

have won the Grammy, the Academy Award, the Golden Globe, the Emmy, and a Tony. Born and raised in New York City, she performed in San Diego and the Bay Area with the Blake Street Hawkeyes theatre troupe. It was there that she created the characters that became “The Spook Show” and evolved into her hit Broadway show, Grammy Award-winning album, and the HBO special that helped launch her career.

Gala honoree Sharon Casdin, a retired floral designer, divides her time between Manhattan and Ashley Falls, MA. Born in Washington, DC, and raised in Westport, CT, Casdin raised three sons in Manhattan, where they all reside now with their families. Along with her late husband Jeffrey, she was central to the founding of the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, serving on its Board of Directors, and as an enthusiastic audience member for a wide range of programming. She loves art, theater, opera, gardening, and travel, and is deeply committed to the southern Berkshire community.

The 2018 Mahaiwe Gala Committee includes Sandy Ashendorf, Shari Ashman, Jayne Atkinson and Michel Gill, Carol Bekar, Maggie Buchwald, Ursula and Walter Cliff, Margaret Deutsch, Sharon Feldstein, Elisa Schindler Frankel, Susan and Richard Grausman, Sari Scheer and Sam Kopel, Benjamin Liptzin, M.D., Clara Londoner, Pamela Pescosolido, Patricia and Lawrence Rutkowski, Beth Sackler and Jeff Cohen, Abby Schroeder, Marjorie and Barry Shapiro, Appy and John Stookey, and Mandy Victor-Pieczarka.

Performance-only tickets are \$100 to \$150. Those tickets go on sale to Mahaiwe members on June 6 and to the public on June 8. Gala package tickets start at \$500, including a pre-show dinner catered by Peter Platt of Old Inn on the Green. To order gala packages, contact Erica Darling at [erica@mahaiwe.org](mailto:erica@mahaiwe.org) or 413.644.9040 x107.

The Mahaiwe is located at 14 Castle Street in Great Barrington, MA. 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](http://www.mahaiwe.org) or call 413.528.0100.

### About the Mahaiwe

Located in downtown Great Barrington, MA, 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](http://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](http://berkshires.org).

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