Mahaiwe Announces Movies and London’s National Theatre HD Broadcasts

Great Barrington, Mass.—Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center announces fall and winter London’s National Theatre in HD broadcasts, along with an array of upcoming films and a special Met Opera holiday broadcast.

“We are excited by all the sensational screenings coming to the Mahaiwe. From a London interview with The Handmaid’s Tale author Margaret Atwood to the HD broadcasts of Fleabag and The Lehman Trilogy, we will encounter some of the most riveting dramas of our time,” says Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly. “We are also happy to present mini career retrospectives of Jeff Bridges and Bette Davis and look forward to enjoying performances by these singular movie talents in some of their most popular films. Of course, our annual holiday classic traditions continue with The Wizard of Oz and the free screening of It’s a Wonderful Life.”

The fall season kicks off on Sunday, September 22 at 2:00pm with the HD broadcast of an interview with Canadian novelist, poet, literary critic, and inventor Margaret Atwood. She will discuss The Testaments, her highly anticipated sequel to The Handmaid’s Tale. Special guests Sally Hawkins, Lily James, and Ann Dowd will read excerpts of the new book. The publication of Atwood’s The Handmaid’s Tale in 1985 and the current, Emmy Award-winning television series have created a cultural phenomenon, as handmaids have become a symbol of women’s rights and a protest against misogyny and oppression. Broadcaster and author Samira Ahmed will interview Atwood about her remarkable
career, her diverse range of works, and why she has returned to her seminal handmaid story, 34 years later. Tickets are $12.

The Mahaiwe will broadcast three major London’s National Theatre in HD productions as part of National Theatre Live’s tenth anniversary season. The hilarious, award-winning, one-woman show that inspired the BBC’s hit TV series Fleabag will be broadcast live from London’s West End on Saturday, September 28 at 2:00pm. Written and performed by Phoebe Waller-Bridge (Fleabag, Killing Eve) and directed by Vicky Jones, Fleabag is a rip-roaring look at “some sort of woman living her sort of life.” The character Fleabag may seem oversexed, emotionally unfiltered, and self-obsessed, but that’s just the tip of the iceberg. Age recommendation 15+.

On Saturday, October 5 at 2:00pm, there will be an encore broadcast of The Lehman Trilogy. Academy Award-winner Sam Mendes directs Simon Russell Beale, Adam Godley, and Ben Miles in this critically acclaimed and five-time Olivier Award nominated play. It’s the story of a family and a company that changed the world, told in three parts on a single evening. It begins on a cold September morning in 1844 when a young man from Bavaria stands on a New York dockside, dreaming of a new life in the new world. 163 years later, the firm he and his brothers establish—Lehman Brothers—spectacularly collapses into bankruptcy, and triggers the largest financial crisis in history.

Shakespeare’s most famous romantic comedy, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, captured live at the Bridge Theatre in London, will be broadcast on Saturday, November 2 at 2:00pm. Gwendoline Christie (Game of Thrones), Oliver Chris (Green Wing, NT Live: Young Marx), David Moorst (NT Live: Allelujah!), and Hammed Animashaun (The Barber Shop Chronicles) lead the cast as Titania, Oberon, Puck, and Bottom. Directed by Nicholas Hytner, this production will build on the success of his immersive staging of Julius Caesar (NT Live 2018). The Bridge Theatre will become a forest—a dream world of flying fairies, contagious fogs, and moonlight revels, surrounded by a roving audience following the action on foot.
Met Opera in HD presents *The Magic Flute* on Sunday, December 8 at 1:00pm. Julie Taymor’s kaleidoscopic 2006 production returns this holiday season in an encore presentation of the company’s first-ever Live in HD transmission that includes tenor Matthew Polenzani, baritone Nathan Gunn, and bass René Pape in this abridged, English-language version of Mozart’s classic fable.

Tickets to London’s National Theatre broadcasts and to this special Met Opera in HD broadcast are $17/ $10 ages 21 and under.

The Jeff Bridges mini film festival will include *The Last Picture Show* (1971, rated R) on Thursday, September 26 at 7:00pm; *The Big Lebowski* (1998, rated R) on Sunday, September 29 at 7:00pm; and *True Grit* (2010, rated PG-13) on Thursday, October 3 at 7:00pm. Born into a show biz family in 1949, the Oscar-winning actor has appeared in more than 77 films.

On Thursday, October 31 at 7:00pm, the Mahaiwe will screen *Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993, rated PG). Halloween meets Christmas in Henry Selick and Tim Burton’s stop-motion animated musical.

The Bette Davis mini film festival will include *Jezebel* (1938) on Thursday, November 7 at 7:00pm; *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* (1962) on Thursday, November 14 at 7:00pm; and *The Whales of August* (1987, rated PG) on Saturday, November 16 at 7:00pm. Bette Davis (1908–1989) is regarded as one of the greatest actresses in Hollywood history; she appeared in nearly 100 films.

The Mahaiwe continues its annual Thanksgiving weekend tradition with a screening of *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) on Saturday, November 30 at 4:00pm. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the beloved family classic. The theater will also offer its traditional free screening of *It’s a Wonderful Life* (1946) on Friday, December 20 at 7:00pm as a gift to the community.
The Mahaiwe has partnered with Only in My Dreams Events to enrich each screening with a movie-themed treat. Sponsored by Buchwald, tickets (general admission) are $8 for adults and $5 for children.

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 22,000 students from 73 different schools have benefited from the Mahaiwe’s school-time performances and residencies. For more information, see www.mahaiwe.org.

# # #