

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 19, 2013

Media Contact:  
Gina Hyams, PR Consultant  
413.464.2851  
ginahyams@gmail.com

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

**Mahaiwe Kicks Off August with *Magic Tree House Free Fun Friday* and Comedian  
Rita Rudner**

Great Barrington, Mass.— Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center kicks off its August schedule with ***Magic Tree House Free Fun Friday*** on Friday, August 2 from 10:00am to 3:00pm and with a performance by comedian and *New York Times*-bestselling author **Rita Rudner** on Sunday, August 4 at 7:00pm. “The first week of August, our theater will be filled with laughter,” said Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly. “Community members of all ages are in for a great time.”

On Friday, August 2 from 10:00am to 3:00pm, ***Magic Tree House Free Fun Friday*** will include a program and related activities celebrating Mary Pope Osborne’s *Magic Tree House* internationally bestselling children’s book series. There will be a 25-minute tribute to the magic of reading, titled *Read. Read. Read.* at 11:00am, and again at 1:00pm that involves a captivating performance by characters Jack and Annie, audience participation, and original songs. Both tribute programs will feature sign language interpretation. Throughout the day, there will also be arts and crafts, movement explorations, and Spanish-language activities offered for the entire family. The beloved author will be in attendance, along with the creative team behind the stage adaptation: Randy Courts, Jenny Laird, and Will Osborne. Tickets are free as part of Free Fun Friday sponsored by the Highland Street Foundation.

**Rita Rudner** will perform on Sunday, August 4 at 7:00pm. One of the country’s top comedians and a *New York Times* bestselling author, Rudner is also an award-winning television personality, screenwriter, playwright, Broadway dancer, and actress. A house-

filling favorite in Las Vegas since she opened as one of the hottest tickets in town in June 2000, she is known for her epigrammatic one-liners. Over the course of a 2,000-plus show run in Las Vegas, she has sold more than one million tickets and become the longest-running solo show in the history of Sin City. She was named Las Vegas Comedian Of The Year nine years in a row. Tickets are \$25 to \$66.

Other upcoming events at the Mahaiwe include a **Berkshire Playwrights Lab** staged reading of *The Handyman* by Richard Dresser on August 7; a lecture by food historian **Francine Segan** titled *Shakespeare's Kitchen*, followed by a screening of Franco Zeffirelli's Oscar-winning film, *Romeo and Juliet* (PG, 1968) on August 12; and *Free to Be... You and Me* 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration with a live panel discussion and audience Q&A featuring **Marlo Thomas**, **Alan Alda**, and **Letty Cottin Pogrebin** on August 18.

### **Tickets**

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. A limited number of \$15 tickets are available for patrons ages 30 and younger to performances at the Mahaiwe through Mahaiwe ArtSmart Tix. 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 and has been in continuous operation for over 100 years. In 2005, the theater experienced a renaissance as a beautifully restored 681-seat venue to offer a broad range of cultural and community events. Today's "Mahaiwe Mix" of diverse, high quality programming strives to provide meaningful, memorable entertainment for all ages and interests.

###

## Mahaiwe August Schedule at a Glance

Friday, August 2 from 10:00am to 3:00pm with performances at 11:00am and 1:00pm

Mahaiwe Presents

### ***Magic Tree House* Free Fun Friday**

A program and related activities celebrating Mary Pope Osborne's *Magic Tree House* bestselling children's book series and the joy of reading

Tickets are free

Sponsored by: Highland Street Foundation

Sunday, August 4 at 7:00pm

Mahaiwe Presents

### **Rita Rudner**

Comedian and *New York Times*-bestselling author

Tickets are \$25 to \$66

Wednesday, August 7 at 7:30pm

### **Berkshire Playwrights Lab Presents**

Staged reading of *The Handyman* by Richard Dresser

Tickets are free

Monday, August 12 at 6:30pm, movie at 8:00pm

Mahaiwe Presents

### **Francine Segan Lecture: Shakespeare's Kitchen**

A talk about cooking and dining in the 1500s, followed by a screening of Franco Zeffirelli's Oscar-winning film, *Romeo and Juliet* (PG, 1968)

Tickets are \$20 to \$25 (includes movie, \$7 for movie only)

Sunday, August 18 at 7:00pm

Mahaiwe Presents

### **Free to Be...You and Me 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration featuring a Live Panel Discussion with Marlo Thomas, Alan Alda, and Letty Cottin Pogrebin**

The creative trio will look back at their empowering children's classic and the difference it made, as well as discuss the societal problems that persist for children and strategies for progress.

Tickets are \$35 to \$200 (preferred seating and post-show reception with the artists)

Proceeds will benefit the Free To Be Foundation and Mahaiwe Education programs