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

**Mahaiwe to Present HD Broadcasts by
London's National Theatre, Big Apple Circus, and Bolshoi Ballet**

Great Barrington, Mass.— Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center announced a new series of HD (high definition) broadcasts, including Big Apple Circus, the Bolshoi Ballet's *Swan Lake*, and seven productions by London's National Theatre. "There are tremendous live theater offerings throughout Berkshire County; the Mahaiwe's HD series provides a unique chance to see top-caliber productions from London and Broadway that would otherwise not be enjoyed by our audiences," said Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly. "These are not-to-be-missed opportunities for anyone who loves the performing arts in our community."

National Theatre Live launched in June 2009 with an HD broadcast of the National Theatre production of *Phèdre* with Helen Mirren. The project has since broadcast more than twenty other productions filmed during live performances from the National Theatre, and on occasion other theatres in the UK and around the world. Each production is filmed in front of a live audience in the theatre, with cameras carefully positioned throughout the auditorium to ensure that cinema audiences get the 'best seat in the house' view of each production. The 2014-15 season will feature new works by David Hare, Tom Stoppard, and DV8 Physical Theatre, as well as the classic plays, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Treasure Island*, *Man and Superman*, and *Of Mice and Men*. The latter broadcast will include an exclusive pre-screening panel discussion with the team behind the hit Broadway production onstage at the Mahaiwe.

The series kicks off on Sunday, November 16 at 3:00pm with Tennessee Williams's timeless masterpiece, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, which is the fastest-selling production in the Young Vic's history. The production stars Gillian Anderson (*The X-Files*, *The Fall*) as Blanche DuBois, Ben Foster (*Lone Survivor*, *Kill Your Darlings*) as Stanley, and Vanessa Kirby (BBC's *Great Expectations*, *Three Sisters* at the Young Vic) as Stella. As Blanche's fragile world crumbles, she turns to her sister Stella for solace – but her downward spiral brings her face to face with the brutal, unforgiving Stanley Kowalski. Visionary director Benedict Andrews returns to the Young Vic following his Critics' Circle Award-winning *Three Sisters*.

Bill Nighy and Carey Mulligan star in the highly anticipated West End production of David Hare's *Skylight*, directed by Stephen Daldry, to be broadcast on Friday, December 5 at 7:00pm. On a bitterly cold London evening, schoolteacher Kyra Hollis (Carey Mulligan) receives an unexpected visit from her former lover, Tom Sergeant (Bill Nighy), a successful and charismatic restaurateur whose wife has recently died. As the evening progresses, the two attempt to rekindle their once passionate relationship only to find themselves locked in a dangerous battle of opposing ideologies and mutual desires. Nighy, whose extensive film credits include *Love Actually*, *Notes on a Scandal*, and *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* and whose stage roles include *Pravda* and the world premiere of David Hare's *The Vertical Hour* on Broadway, plays alongside Mulligan (*Inside Llewyn Davis*, *The Great Gatsby*, *An Education*), who is making her West End stage debut, and Matthew Beard (*An Education*, *One Day*, *The Look of Love*). *Skylight* is directed by Academy Award-nominated director Stephen Daldry, who recently directed the sell-out West End production of *The Audience* with Helen Mirren, which was also broadcast to cinemas by National Theatre Live.

Internationally renowned DV8 Physical Theatre brings its powerful new production, *John*, to the National Theatre. The production will be broadcast on Sunday, December 14 at 3:00pm and is recommended for mature audiences (18 years+) as it contains adult themes, strong language, and nudity. DV8 Physical Theatre has produced 18 highly acclaimed dance-theater works and four films for television, which have garnered over 50

national and international awards. The company's new production authentically depicts real-life stories, combining movement and spoken word to create an intense and moving theatrical experience. Lloyd Newson, DV8's artistic director, interviewed more than 50 men asking them frank questions, initially about love and sex. One of those men was John. What emerged was a story that is both extraordinary and touching about years of crime, drug use, and struggling to survive that lead John on a search in which his life converges with others in an unexpected place.

Of Mice and Men will be broadcast on Saturday, December 20. There will be a live, pre-screening panel onstage at the Mahaiwe, starting at 7:00pm with the Broadway team that produced and managed the production, followed by the 8:00pm broadcast. The pre-screening discussion will feature Broadway Producer David Binder, Executive Producer/General Manager Wendy Orshan, and Marketing Director Eric Schnall. "I'm very excited about the special opportunity that our behind-the-scenes panelists are creating, as they describe the development of this award-winning Broadway play and its HD broadcast process," said Jolly.

Golden Globe winner and Academy Award nominee James Franco (*127 Hours*, *Milk*) and Tony Award nominee Chris O'Dowd (*Bridesmaids*, *Girls*) star in the hit Broadway production, *Of Mice And Men*, filmed on stage by National Theatre Live. This landmark revival of Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck's play is a powerful portrait of the American spirit and a heartbreaking testament to the bonds of friendship. *Of Mice and Men* is directed by Tony Award, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circles award winner Anna D. Shapiro (Broadway's *August: Osage County*) and features Leighton Meester (*Country Strong*, *Gossip Girl*) and Tony Award winner Jim Norton (*The Seafarer*). The production was nominated for two Tony Awards, including Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Play for Chris O'Dowd.

Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson's story of murder, money, and mutiny is brought to life in a thrilling new stage adaptation by the National Theatre's Bryony Lavery, to be broadcast on Saturday, January 24 at 5:00pm. It's a dark, stormy night. The

stars are out. Jim, the innkeeper's granddaughter, opens the door to a terrifying stranger. At the old sailor's feet sits a huge sea-chest full of secrets. Jim invites him in – and her dangerous voyage begins. The production is suitable for audience members ages 10+.

On Sunday, April 19 at 3:00pm, acclaimed playwright Tom Stoppard (*Shakespeare in Love, Arcadia, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*) returns to the National Theatre with his highly-anticipated new play, *The Hard Problem*, directed by Nicholas Hytner (*Othello, Hamlet, One Man, Two Guvnors*). Hilary, a young psychology researcher at a brain science institute, is nursing a private sorrow and a troubling question at work, where psychology and biology meet. If there is nothing but matter, what is consciousness? This is 'the hard problem' which puts Hilary at odds with her colleagues who include her first mentor Spike, her boss Leo, and the billionaire founder of the institute, Jerry. Is the day coming when the computer and the MRI scanner will answer all the questions psychology can ask? Meanwhile Hilary needs a miracle, and she is prepared to pray for one.

Man and Superman on Friday, May 15 at 7:00pm will feature Academy Award nominee Ralph Fiennes (*The English Patient, Schindler's List, Oedipus at the National Theatre*), who plays Jack Tanner in this exhilarating reinvention of Shaw's witty, provocative classic. Jack Tanner, celebrated radical thinker and rich bachelor, seems an unlikely choice as guardian to the alluring heiress, Ann. But she takes it in her assured stride and, despite the love of a poet, she decides to marry and tame this dazzling revolutionary. Tanner, appalled by the whiff of domesticity, is tipped off by his chauffeur and flees to Spain, where he is captured by bandits and meets The Devil. An extraordinary dream-debate, heaven versus hell, ensues. Following in hot pursuit, Ann is there when Tanner awakes, as fierce in her certainty as he is in his. A romantic comedy, an epic fairytale, a fiery philosophical debate, *Man and Superman* asks fundamental questions about how we live.

The Mahaiwe will also present HD broadcasts by New York's Big Apple Circus and the Bolshoi Ballet. For its 37th Season, Big Apple Circus soars on wings of artifice and

illusion to a dreamscape domain where nothing is impossible in its new show, *Metamorphosis*. The production features spectacular performers from the U.S., Russia, France, and Mongolia, in an array of classical circus artistry, such as clowning, juggling, acrobatics, and equestrianism (with animal-friendly acts) in a thrilling two-hour performance, which will be broadcast on Tuesday, December 23 at 6:00pm. Recommended for children ages five+.

The Bolshoi Ballet's *Swan Lake* will be broadcast on Sunday, January 25 at 1:00pm. With Piotr Tchaikovsky's famous, lyrical score and libretto and choreography by Yuri Grigorovich, *Swan Lake* is a universal and enchanting masterpiece of love, deception, and drama. It depicts the tragic love between Princess Odette and Prince Siegfried. At the palace, the royal family and their guests are gathered for Prince Siegfried's birthday celebration. In a majestic ceremony, Siegfried is made a knight; young girls try to attract his attention, as he must choose a wife during the ball. Overcome by the sudden awareness of his future responsibilities, he escapes into the night and meets a strange flock of swans by a magical lake. White swan by day, human by night, the beautiful Odette awaits an oath of true love to break the curse. The great legend of the enigmatic swan/woman is one of the most romantic classical ballets, appropriately set in the era of courtly romance and characterized by elegance, style, and harmony.

Tickets

Tickets to National Theatre Live and to the Bolshoi Ballet broadcasts are \$17. Tickets to Big Apple Circus are \$12 (for both adults and children). 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.

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.