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

MAHAIWE ANNOUNCES ADDITIONS TO 2015 SCHEDULE

Rufus Wainwright, Dan Zanes, London's National Theatre in HD production of *Hamlet* with Benedict Cumberbatch, and screenings of *The Godfather* and *The Breakfast Club*

Great Barrington, Mass.— Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center Executive Director Beryl Jolly announced additions to the organization's 2015 10th anniversary season today, including concerts by Rufus Wainwright and Dan Zanes, broadcasts of London's National Theatre in HD production of *Hamlet* with Benedict Cumberbatch, and screenings of *The Godfather* and *The Breakfast Club*.

“Singer-songwriter fans are in for a treat with Rufus Wainwright, Dan Zanes, and Rosanne Cash, who we previously announced, performing in May,” said Jolly. “We look forward to celebrating Rufus's stellar talents and his evolution as a writer and performer since his sold-out show here in 2009. Dan Zanes will celebrate the history of silent movies, which aptly mirrors the early years of the Mahaiwe Theater, by performing to Buster Keaton's *Steamboat Bill Jr.* over Memorial Day weekend.”

Live Concerts

Rufus Wainwright will perform on Saturday, May 9 at 8:00pm. Affectionately referred to by Elton John as “the greatest songwriter on the planet” and praised by the *New York Times* for his “genuine originality,” Wainwright has established himself as one of the great male vocalists and singer-songwriters of his generation. The New York-born,

Montreal-raised singer-songwriter is the son of folk music luminaries Loudon Wainwright III and Kate McGarrigle and the brother of Martha Wainwright, but he has achieved his success by carving out his own singular sound in the worlds of rock, opera, theater, dance, and film. He has released seven studio albums, three DVDs, and three live albums. His latest album, *Vibrate: The Best of Rufus Wainwright*, was released in 2014 on Universal. Musically, Rufus has collaborated with many artists including Robbie Williams, Elton John, Paul Simon, Antony, David Byrne, Joni Mitchell, Robert Wilson, Lou Reed, the Pet Shop Boys, Guy Chambers, and Boy George, among others. This concert is sponsored by Cyril & Dayne Artisan Eyewear. Tickets are \$35 to \$80.

On Saturday, May 23 at 3:00pm, Dan Zanes, accompanied by a percussion player, will perform his original score on stage as Buster Keaton's 1928 classic film, *Steamboat Bill Jr.*, fills the screen. The slapstick of Buster Keaton at the peak of his powers and the energy of the live music make this event well suited for all ages. Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter Dan Zanes occupies a unique place in American music where sea shanties, North American and West Indian folk music, kids party songs, English music hall, early rock-and-roll, and soulful originals collide. With his band, Dan Zanes and Friends, he has toured the world sharing handmade 21st century social music with enthusiastic crowds of kids and kid sympathizers. From thrift shop basements to Carnegie Hall, from Brooklyn to Bahrain and beyond, Zanes has been introducing new songs and reconnecting people to songs that have always been there. Referred to as "the family-music genre's most outspoken and eloquent advocate" by *Time Magazine*, his widely acclaimed music has been featured on *Sesame Street*, *Playhouse Disney*, Nickelodeon, HBO Family, and *Sprout*. Tickets are \$20 to \$25.

London's National Theatre in HD

The Mahaiwe will present three broadcasts of London's National Theatre in HD production of *Hamlet* with Academy Award nominee Benedict Cumberbatch on Thursday, October 15 at 7:00pm, Sunday, October 18 at 3:00pm (encore), and Saturday, November 21 at 7:00pm (encore). Benedict Cumberbatch (BBC's *Sherlock*, *The Imitation*

Game, Frankenstein at the National Theatre) takes on the title role of Shakespeare's great tragedy. Directed by Lyndsey Turner (*Posh, Chimerica*) and produced by Sonia Friedman Productions, National Theatre Live will broadcast this eagerly awaited production live to cinemas. As a country arms itself for war, a family tears itself apart. Forced to avenge his father's death but paralyzed by the task ahead, Hamlet rages against the impossibility of his predicament, threatening both his sanity and the security of the state. Tickets are \$17.

Movies

On Friday, March 27 at 7:00pm, join the Brat Pack for the 30th anniversary celebration of John Hughes's *The Breakfast Club* (1985, rated R), which was ranked number one by *Entertainment Weekly's* list of the 50 Best High School Movies. This 30th anniversary release includes the completely re-mastered feature that has never been seen before on the big screen plus a newly remixed bonus content featurette titled *The Breakfast Club: A Retrospective* that takes a look back at the film that defined a genre. Featuring personal insights from cast members Judd Nelson, Ally Sheedy, Anthony Michael Hall, and John Kapelos as well as contributions from filmmakers Diablo Cody, Amy Heckerling, and Michael Lehman, this featurette is a must see for all Jocks, Criminals, Basket Cases, Brains, and Princesses. Tickets are \$14.

The Mahaiwe will screen Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather* (1972, rated R) on Friday, April 10 at 7:00pm. A chronicle of the American Dream taken to its warped extreme, everything in *The Godfather*—the endlessly quotable script, unforgettable performances, and a bravura climax in which birth and death, order and chaos, religion and violence, collide—is perfect. Chronicling the tale of an aging patriarch of an organized crime dynasty and the transfer of control to his son, the film features iconic performances by Marlon Brando and Al Pacino. Tickets are \$7 (general admission). Sponsored by Don Buchwald and Associates.

Community Presentations

The Mahaiwe will also host presentations by Close Encounters with Music, Berkshire International Film Festival, Montessori School of the Berkshires, and Project Native Film Festival. Details follow in the spring calendar summary below.

Tickets

Tickets to Rufus Wainwright and Dan Zanes go on sale to Mahaiwe members on Wednesday, March 11 at 12 noon and on sale to the public on Friday, March 13 at 12 noon. Tickets to London's National Theatre in HD production of *Hamlet* with Benedict Cumberbatch and to *The Breakfast Club* go on sale to Mahaiwe members on Wednesday, March 18 at 12 noon and on sale to the public on Saturday, March 21 at 12 noon. A limited number of \$15 tickets to each live performance are available for audience members ages 30 and younger through the Mahaiwe ArtSmart Tix program, sponsored by Greylock Federal Credit Union. 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. Since 2005, the performing arts center has hosted over 1,000 events and welcomed almost half a million people through its doors. Its education program has served over 10,000 students from 35 different schools with school-time performances and residencies. The Mahaiwe generates in excess of \$1,000,000 in ticket revenue from 150 events each year, while contributing over \$4,000,000 in regional economic impact from the theater's direct spending and audience's restaurant, lodging, and shopping activities.

Mahaiwe 2015 Spring Season at a Glance **(newly announced programs in bold)**

Saturday, March 14 at 11:00am (pre-broadcast lecture by Scott Eyerly)

Saturday, March 14 at 1:00pm

Mahaiwe presents

The Met: Live in HD

Rossini's *La Donna del Lago*

Bel canto superstars Joyce DiDonato and Juan Diego Flórez join forces for this Rossini showcase of vocal virtuosity, set in the medieval Scottish highlands and based on a beloved novel by Sir Walter Scott.

\$18 to \$25

Sunday, March 15 at 7:00pm

Mahaiwe presents

The Golden Dragon Acrobats production *Cirque Ziva*

Breathtaking Chinese acrobatics

\$25 to \$47

Saturday, March 21 at 6:00pm

Close Encounters with Music presents

Serge Rachmaninoff and Russian Orientalia

The mesmeric Russian pianist Vassily Primakov joins Yehuda Hanani in a program that explores the many facets of Rachmaninoff.

\$25 to \$45

Sunday, March 22 at 3:00pm

Mahaiwe presents

London's National Theatre in HD: *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*

David Hare's play about India based on Pulitzer Prize-winner Katherine Boo's non-fiction book.

\$17

Wednesday, March 25 at 1:00pm (encore broadcast)

Mahaiwe presents

The Met: Live in HD

Rossini's *La Donna del Lago*

Bel canto superstars Joyce DiDonato and Juan Diego Flórez join forces for this Rossini showcase of vocal virtuosity, set in the medieval Scottish highlands and based on a beloved novel by Sir Walter Scott.

\$18 to \$25

Friday, March 27 at 7:00pm

Mahaiwe presents

***The Breakfast Club* (1985, rated R)**

30th anniversary celebration of John Hughes's classic high school movie

\$14

Saturday, March 28 at 2:00pm

Berkshire International Film Festival and Austen Riggs present

Running From Crazy with special guest Mariel Hemingway

Film screening and a roundtable discussion on suicide, stigma, and mental health.

\$18 to \$25. Tickets can be purchased online via austenriggs.org/runningfromcrazy or biffma.org.

Sunday, March 29 at 3:00pm

Mahaiwe presents

London's National Theatre in HD: *A View from the Bridge*

Ivo van Hove directs this stunning production of Arthur Miller's tragic masterpiece that confronts the American dream.

\$17

Friday, April 10 at 7:00pm

Mahaiwe presents

***The Godfather* (1972, rated R)**

Francis Ford Coppola's classic mafia film

\$7

Saturday, April 11 at 7:00pm

Project Native Film Festival presents

JUST EAT IT: A Food Waste Story (2014)

Following the film there will be a Q & A with the filmmakers

Free

Wednesday, April 15 at 10:00am (school field trip performance)

Mahaiwe presents

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia

The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favorites

Three beloved stories by Eric Carle, award-winning children's book illustrator and author, are retold on stage through the magic of black light and fanciful puppets.

Recommended for pre-school through 3rd grade

\$6

Saturday, April 18 at 6:00pm

Close Encounters with Music presents

The New York Wind Quintet

Surveying the Centuries

Starting with Renaissance composer Monteverdi's madrigals and continuing with Beethoven, Anton Reicha, and on to Jean Francaix's witty and sparkling music, the quintet mines the rich repertoire for winds.

\$25 to \$45

On Sunday, April 19 at 3:00pm

Mahaiwe presents

London's National Theatre in HD

The Hard Problem by Tom Stoppard

Nicholas Hytner directs Stoppard's new play about a young psychology researcher at a brain science institute.

\$17

Friday, April 24 at 7:00pm

Berkshire International Film Festival presents

Hollywood Costume

Oscar-nominated costume designer Deborah Nadoolman Landis's presentation on the role of the costume designer and their vital contribution to cinematic storytelling.

\$20

Saturday, April 25 at 10:30am (pre-broadcast lecture by Scott Eyerly)

Saturday, April 25 at 12:30pm

Mahaiwe presents

The Met: Live in HD

Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*

Opera's most enduring tragic double bill returns in an evocative new production from Sir David McVicar, who sets the action across two time periods but in the same Sicilian village.

\$18 to \$25

Saturday, April 25 at 7:00pm

Berkshire International Film Festival presents

Animal House Reunion

Karen Allen, Peter Riegert and other members of the original cast in attendance with a special screening of the film.

\$25

Sunday, April 26 at 1:00pm

Mahaiwe presents

The Bolshoi Ballet in HD: *Ivan the Terrible*

Yuri Grigorovich's dazzling ballet of intrigue and murder in 16th-century Russia, broadcast in stunning HD.

\$17

Saturday, May 2 at 7:00pm

The Montessori School of the Berkshires presents

Alison Larkin LIVE!

Internationally acclaimed comedienne and bestselling author of *The English American* Alison Larkin will perform a sneak preview of her brand new show

\$30 to \$110

Wednesday, May 6 at 12:30pm (encore broadcast)

Mahaiwe presents

The Met: Live in HD

Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*

Opera's most enduring tragic double bill returns in an evocative new production from Sir David McVicar, who sets the action across two time periods but in the same Sicilian village.

\$18 to \$25

Saturday, May 9 at 8:00pm

Mahaiwe presents

Rufus Wainwright

Singer-songwriter will focus on selections from his latest release, *Vibrate: The Best of Rufus Wainwright*.

\$35 to \$80

Friday, May 15 at 7:00pm

Mahaiwe presents

London's National Theatre in HD

Man and Superman by George Bernard Shaw

Academy Award nominee Ralph Fiennes plays Jack Tanner in this exhilarating reinvention of Shaw's witty, provocative classic.

\$17

Saturday, May 16 at 6:00pm

Close Encounters with Music presents

The Avalon String Quartet

Debussy and Schubert

Chamber music concert featuring Schubert's last work, the *String Quintet in C Major*, and Debussy's *String Quartet*

\$25 to \$45

Sunday, May 17 at 7:00pm

Mahaiwe presents

Rosanne Cash with John Leventhal and Zev Katz

Country pop singer-songwriter to perform songs from her new album, *The River and The Thread*. Note: at 6:00pm, *Smithsonian Magazine* feature writer and national music critic Geoffrey Himes will give a pre-show talk about Rosanne Cash.

\$29 to \$79

Saturday, May 23 at 3:00pm

Mahaiwe presents

Dan Zanes Buster Keaton's Steamboat Bill Jr

Grammy-winning Dan Zanes performs his live original score on stage as Buster Keaton's 1928 classic film, *Steamboat Bill Jr.*, fills the screen.

\$20 to \$25

Thursday, May 28 through Sunday, May 31
Berkshire International Film Festival presents
BIFF celebrates its 10th anniversary season
Passes available via biffma.org and single tickets TBA

***** PLUS NEW FALL PROGRAM**

Thursday, October 15 at 7:00pm

Sunday, October 18 at 3:00pm (encore)

Saturday, November 21 at 7:00pm (encore)

Mahaiwe presents

London's National Theatre in HD

***Hamlet* with Academy Award nominee Benedict Cumberbatch**

Benedict Cumberbatch (BBC's *Sherlock*, *The Imitation Game*, *Frankenstein* at the National Theatre) takes on the title role of Shakespeare's great tragedy.

\$17