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

Mahaiwe to Celebrate Storytellers and Community in August

Highlights include concerts by master singer-songwriters Don McLean and Graham Nash; talks by StoryCorps founder Dave Isay, Berkshire native rock star drummer Kenny Aronoff, and by Arlene and Alan Alda about the new book, *Just Kids from the Bronx*; and *South County Stories* local history plays project; plus movies and a Free Fun Friday show by Bindlestiff Family Cirkus performers

Great Barrington, Mass.— The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center will present an array of inspiring talks, concerts, and screenings in August that celebrate the power of stories, music, and connection. “Stories help us bridge the past and the future, focusing on the people and places that root us in the most meaningful ways,” said Beryl Jolly, executive director of the nonprofit theater. “I am really excited about sharing these unique opportunities with the Mahaiwe community this summer.”

The programming includes talks by Berkshire native rock star drummer Kenny Aronoff, author Arlene Alda accompanied by her husband Alan Alda, and by StoryCorps founder Dave Isay, plus a series of community StoryCorps recordings; concerts by master singer-songwriters Don McLean and Graham Nash; *South County Stories* new short plays based on local history; plus movie screenings and a Free Fun Friday event by performers from the Bindlestiff Family Cirkus.

Arlene and Alan Alda will give a talk about Arlene’s new book, *Just Kids from the Bronx*, on Saturday, August 1 at 7:00pm. The event will celebrate rich oral histories from

those who grew up in this unique borough. Arlene Alda's own Bronx memories were a jumping-off point from which to reminisce with a nun, a police officer, an urban planner, and with Al Pacino, Carl Reiner, Colin Powell, Maira Kalman, Bobby Bonilla, Mary Higgins Clark, Regis Philbin, and many other leading artists, athletes, scientists, and entrepreneurs—experiences spanning six decades of Bronx living. The book includes a treasure trove of reminiscences of the Pelham Parkway, the Bronx High School of Science, Van Cortlandt Park, and the diverse families that have lived on this northern tip of New York City. Arlene Alda is an award-winning photographer and author of 19 books. She and her husband, actor Alan Alda, live in New York City and Long Island. Books will be available for sale through the box office in advance and in the lobby on the night of show, and there will be a book signing after the talk. Tickets are \$10 to \$25.

The Mahaiwe and Great Barrington Fairgrounds will co-present an evening with StoryCorps founder Dave Isay on Wednesday, August 5 at 7:00pm at the Mahaiwe, plus free StoryCorps community recordings in partnership with Berkshire Community College South County Center on Friday, August 7 through Sunday, August from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Dave Isay is the founder of StoryCorps and the recipient of numerous honors, including six Peabody Awards, a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, and the 2015 \$1 million TED prize. StoryCorps is one of the largest oral history projects of its kind. Since 2003, StoryCorps has collected and archived more than 50,000 interviews from more than 100,000 participants. Each conversation is recorded on a free CD to share, and is preserved at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Millions listen to weekly broadcasts on NPR's *Morning Edition* on Friday mornings. Isay's numerous books that grew out of his public radio documentary work will be available for sale in the lobby and there will be a book signing after this event.

In conjunction with Dave Isay's talk, community members are invited to record their own conversations with a family member, friend, or colleague. A trained team of StoryCorps facilitators will be in Great Barrington to formally record up to 18 stories over the three day period. In addition, teams of locally-trained volunteers will allow for more recordings using the newly launched StoryCorps mobile app. To participate in the recording project,

please fill out the form posted at www.mahaiwe.org/Community. Formal recording reservations are limited and will be confirmed via email.

Don McLean, one of America's most enduring singer-songwriters, who is forever associated with his classic hits "American Pie" and "Vincent (Starry, Starry Night)," will perform on Saturday, August 8 at 8:00pm. Since first hitting the charts in 1971, McLean has amassed over 40 gold and platinum records world-wide and, in 2004, was inducted into the Songwriters' Hall of Fame. His songs have been recorded by artists from every musical genre, most notably Madonna's No. 1 recording of "American Pie" in 2000 and George Michael's version of "The Grave" in 2003, sung in protest at the Iraq War. In 2007, he shared his life story in Alan Howard's biography, *The Don McLean Story: Killing Us Softly With His Songs*. His manuscript for "American Pie" recently went up for auction at Christie's and sold for \$1.2 million. Tickets are \$39 to \$84.

The Mahaiwe will present Free Fun Friday, sponsored by Highland Street Foundation, on Friday, August 14 from 10:00am to 4:00pm. The event will feature four multi-talented performers from Bindlestiff Family Cirkus, who will walk on stilts, juggle, unicycle, and clown around both inside and outside of the theater. Bindlestiff has performed on stages and festivals around the world, including Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall (NYC), Glastonbury (UK), Burning Man (NV), Ruigoord (NL), Bonnaroo (TN), and in the Caribbean Seas. Admission is free.

On Saturday, August 15 at 8:00pm, the Mahaiwe will present an evening with legendary singer-songwriter Graham Nash, whose songs defined a generation and helped shape the history of rock and roll. He's written over 200 songs, including such classic hits as "Carrie Anne," "On A Carousel," "Simple Man," "Our House," "Marrakesh Express," and "Teach Your Children." He is a two-time Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee—with Crosby, Stills, and Nash and with The Hollies. He was also inducted into the Songwriter's Hall of Fame twice, as a solo artist and with CSN, and he is a Grammy Award winner as well. Nash's passionate voice continues to be heard in support of peace, and social and environmental justices. The No Nukes/Musicians United for Safe Energy

(MUSE) concerts he organized with Jackson Browne and Bonnie Raitt in 1979 remain seminal benefit events. In 2011, he was instrumental in bringing MUSE back to the forefront with a concert to benefit Japan disaster relief and groups promoting non-nuclear energy worldwide. Tickets are \$36 to \$81 (including a donation to Nash's charity, The Guacamole Fund).

In collaboration with numerous community partners, the Mahaiwe will present *South County Stories*, a local history plays project, on Monday, August 17 at 7:00pm. Dozens of community members have participated in story circles in recent months, sharing memories and experiences of families who have lived and worked in the Southern Berkshires for many generations. Teaching artists Joshua Briggs, Barby Cardillo, Glendon Chamberlin, Jim Frangione, Rebecca Honig, and Kristen van Ginhoven facilitated the workshops and are collaborating with community members to create short plays that focus on teachers, students, and farmers from throughout the area, as well as residents of Housatonic in particular. Bard College at Simon's Rock Dean of Academic Affairs Anne O'Dwyer will moderate a post-show discussion to extend the reflections and community conversation.

The *South County Stories* project is sponsored by Mass Humanities and Salisbury Trust, and is in partnership with Berkshire Grown, Great Barrington Historical Society, Housatonic Heritage, the Sheffield Land Trust, and WAM Theatre. Admission is free.

Berkshire native rock star drummer Kenny Aronoff will return home on Sunday, August 23 at 7:00pm to talk about his strategies for a successful life and career, and share insights from his performances with the biggest musicians, for four presidents, at the Kennedy Center Honors, and in the biggest stadiums around the world. He first saw *Hard Day's Night* at the Mahaiwe in 1964, and 50 years later performed with Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr on "The Night that Changed America: A Grammy Salute to the Beatles." Tickets are \$25 to \$40.

In conjunction with his talk, Aronoff will give an hour-long master class at 4:00pm that

focuses on concepts of drumming that help musicians play all styles of music; functional practicing; and professional issues, including what it takes to be a great session drummer and how to prepare for live shows and studio work. All musicians and players of all skill levels are welcome. Tuition for the master class is \$50 (not including admission to the evening show). To register, visit the box office or call 413.528.0100 during box office hours.

In celebration with the Great Barrington Fire Fighter's Association Main Street Car Show, the Mahaiwe will screen *Grand Prix* (1966) on Thursday, August 6 at 8:00pm. John Frankenheimer's Oscar-winning film about the excitement and drama of Formula One stars James Garner, Eva Marie Saint, Yves Montand, and Toshiro Mifune, alongside racing champions Phil Hill, Graham Hill, Juan Manuel Fangio, Jim Clark, Jochen Rindt, and Jack Brabham. This screening is sponsored by Don Buchwald and Associates.

As part of the Mahaiwe's new Cult Classics Series, sponsored by Deb and Bill Ryan, the Mahaiwe will screen *This is Spinal Tap* (1984) On Friday, August 28 at 8:00pm. This rock music mockumentary was written, scored by, and stars Rob Reiner, Christopher Guest, Michael McKean, and Harry Shearer. The series will also showcase Christopher Guest's *Best in Show* (2000) on Sunday, August 30 at 7:00pm in celebration of Great Barrington's Summerfest Pet Parade earlier that day. This comedy follows five entrants in a prestigious dog show, focusing on the surreal interactions among the various owners and handlers. Movie tickets are \$7 (general admission).

Tickets

A limited number of \$15 tickets are available to the live events 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 12,000 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.