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

**Mahaiwe Celebrates Thanksgiving with Arlo Guthrie
and Screenings of *Alice's Restaurant* and *The Wizard of Oz***

Great Barrington, Mass.— The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center and the Guthrie Center will co-present an on-stage conversation with Arlo Guthrie, moderated by WAMC's Alan Chartock, on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00pm, followed by a screening of Arthur Penn's *Alice's Restaurant* (1969). The Mahaiwe will also present its annual Thanksgiving weekend screenings of *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) on Saturday, November 28 at 4:00pm and 7:00pm.

“The Mahaiwe team is very happy to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with two special community classic films,” said Mahaiwe Executive Director Beryl Jolly. “We also invite the public to participate in the StoryCorps ‘Great Thanksgiving Listen’ by interviewing family elders over the holiday weekend via <https://storycorps.org/blog/the-great-thanksgiving-listen/> and to help local families and pets in need by bringing contributions to the donation bins in the Mahaiwe lobby.”

The Mahaiwe is partnering with the People's Pantry and the Berkshire Community Diaper Project to help provide for families in need this holiday season, including accepting pet food donations. From now until the end of the year, donation boxes will be available in the theater lobby between the hours of 12:00pm and 6:00pm, Wednesday through Saturday. Non-perishable food items, as well as paper/cleaning products and disposable diapers (which are not covered by WIC or food stamps) can be dropped off

during these hours.

This year marks the 50th reunion of that fateful Thanksgiving Day in 1965 when Arlo Guthrie, then age 18, drove to the Berkshires to have Thanksgiving dinner with friends Alice and Ray Brock at their Great Barrington home in The Trinity Church on Division Street. The Trinity Church is where the song “Alice’s Restaurant Massacree” began and where the movie *Alice’s Restaurant* was filmed. It continues to service the local and international community as the home to the Guthrie Center and the Guthrie Foundation.

In the film, Arlo Guthrie plays himself. After getting kicked out of college, he decides to visit his friend Alice (Pat Quinn) for Thanksgiving dinner. After dinner is over, Arlo volunteers to take the trash to the dump, but finds it closed for the holiday, so he just dumps the trash in the bottom of a ravine. This simple act of littering gets him arrested, and sends him on a bizarre journey that ends with him in front of the draft board.

The Mahaiwe’s Thanksgiving tradition of screening *The Wizard of Oz* stretches back 35 years. In this charming film based on L. Frank Baum’s popular stories, Dorothy and her dog Toto are caught in a tornado’s path and somehow end up in the land of Oz. There she meets some memorable friends and foes on her journey to meet the Wizard of Oz, who everyone says can help her return home and possibly grant her new friends their goals of a brain, a heart, and courage.

Tickets to Arlo Guthrie’s conversation with Alan Chartock and the screening of *Alice’s Restaurant* are \$10 (general admission). Please note that Arlo Guthrie will not be performing and that this is not a concert. Tickets to *The Wizard of Oz* are \$7 (general admission). Mahaiwe movies are sponsored by Don Buchwald & Associates and 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.