

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4, 2016

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**Mahaiwe Announces Spring and Summer Programming**

**Highlights include Broadway stars Alan Cumming and Kelli O’Hara, bestselling author David Sedaris, legendary dance companies MOMIX and Paul Taylor Dance Company, and celebrated Beatles tribute band The Fab Faux**

Great Barrington, Mass.— Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center Executive Director Beryl Jolly announced summer and fall additions to the organization’s 2016 schedule today, including performances by Broadway stars Alan Cumming and Kelli O’Hara, bestselling author David Sedaris, legendary dance companies MOMIX and Paul Taylor Dance Company, and the celebrated Beatles tribute band The Fab Faux. “I am very excited by the raw talent and creative artistry that all these performers will bring to our intimate venue. The scope and breadth of artists, all among the best in their fields, will make for another beautiful and vibrant season,” said Jolly.

**Music**

Broadway and television star Alan Cumming will headline the Mahaiwe’s 2016 gala on Monday, July 18 at 8:00pm. This special event supports the Mahaiwe’s year-round arts and education programs. He will perform his hit new concert *Alan Cumming Sings Sappy Songs*. Cumming is an actor and activist and, according to the *New York Times*, “a bawdy countercultural sprite.” *Time Magazine* named him one of the most fun people in show business. He plays political maverick Eli Gold on CBS’s *The Good Wife*, for which he received Golden Globe, Emmy, SAG, and Satellite award nominations. He recently

finished his Tony Award-winning role of the Emcee in the Broadway musical *Cabaret*. Cumming's diverse career has found him performing at venues around the globe, including the Sydney Opera House; making back-to-back films with Stanley Kubrick and The Spice Girls; directing and starring in a musical condom commercial; creating voices of a Smurf, a goat, and Hitler; entering upside down and suspended by his ankles in a Greek tragedy (in the National Theatre of Scotland's *The Bacchae*); and recording an award-winning album of songs (plus a dance remix). Performance-only tickets are \$75 to \$150. Gala tickets, starting at \$500, include orchestra seating and a pre-show dinner, and will be available later this spring. Contact Dave Barrett for more information at [413.644.9040 ext. 106](tel:413.644.9040) or [dave@mahaiwe.org](mailto:dave@mahaiwe.org).

The Fab Faux will make their second appearance at the Mahaiwe on Saturday, July 30 at 8:00pm. With a commitment to the accurate reproduction of The Beatles' repertoire, The Fab Faux treat the seminal music with unwavering respect, and are known for their painstaking recreations of the songs (with emphasis on the later works never performed live by The Beatles). This summer, they will perform "A Hard Day's Night" in its entirety, plus a set of favorites. Far beyond a cover band, they play the music of The Beatles so impeccably that one must experience it to believe it. They perform part-perfect renditions of complex material like "Strawberry Fields Forever" and "I Am the Walrus," as well as harmony-driven songs like "Because," "Nowhere Man," and "Paperback Writer," reproduced not only note-for-note, but with extra vocalists to achieve a double-tracked effect. Tickets are \$30 to \$90.

Kelli O'Hara dazzled audiences and critics alike in the most recent revivals of *South Pacific*, *The Pajama Game*, and *The King and I*. On Sunday, August 7 at 7:00pm, she will present an intimate evening of classic American Songbook selections, accompanied by piano. O'Hara has unequivocally established herself as one of Broadway's great leading ladies. Her portrayal of Anna Leonowens in the critically acclaimed revival of *The King and I* garnered her a Tony Award for Best Leading Actress in a Musical, along with

Drama League and Outer Critics Circle nominations. Her performance as Francesca in the musical adaptation of *The Bridges of Madison County* earned her Tony, Drama Desk, Drama League, and Outer Critics Circle nominations. Additionally, she starred as Mrs. Darling in NBC's live telecast of *Peter Pan* alongside Allison Williams and Christian Borle, and on New Year's Eve, O'Hara made her Metropolitan Opera debut in the production of *The Merry Widow* with Renee Fleming. Tickets are \$35 to \$100.

### **Author**

Bestselling author David Sedaris will return to Great Barrington for his third appearance at the Mahaiwe on Sunday, April 10 at 7:00pm. With sardonic wit and incisive social critiques, Sedaris has become one of America's pre-eminent humor writers. The great skill with which he slices through cultural euphemisms and political correctness proves that he is a master of satire and one of the most observant writers addressing the human condition today. He is the author of *Barrel Fever* and *Holidays on Ice*, as well as collections of personal essays, *Naked*, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*, *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*, and his most recent book, *Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls*, each of which became an immediate bestseller. The audio version of *Let's Explore Diabetes With Owls* is a 56th annual Grammy Awards Nominee for Best Spoken Word Album. There are a total of ten million copies of his books in print and they have been translated into 25 languages. Sedaris's books will be for sale at the Mahaiwe and he will sign them after his talk. Tickets are \$48 to \$68.

### **Dance**

Known internationally for presenting work of exceptional inventiveness and physical beauty, MOMIX is a company of dancer-illusionists under the direction of Moses Pendleton. They will make their third appearance at the Mahaiwe on Saturday, July 2 at 8:00pm and Sunday, July 3 at 3:00pm. In addition, Pendleton will give a pre-show talk to Mahaiwe members on July 2 at 7:00pm and he and several dancers will offer a post-show Q&A after the matinee on July 3. The new kid-friendly show, *VIVA MOMIX*, features a

collection of company and audience favorites, creating a work that breaks the bounds of the conventional and enters an aesthetic orbit all its own. With nothing more than light, shadow, props, and the human body, MOMIX has astonished audiences in some 55 countries over the course of its 35-year history. Tickets are \$28 to \$78.

The world-renowned Paul Taylor Dance Company will return to the Mahaiwe for its ninth consecutive summer with performances on Friday, July 22 at 8:00pm and Saturday, July 23 at 3:00pm and 7:30pm. One of the seminal artists of our time, Paul Taylor continues to shape the homegrown American art of modern dance that he has helped define since becoming a professional dancer and pioneering choreographer in 1954. Among the works to be performed in the Berkshires this summer will be “Beloved Renegade” (2009), which was inspired by the life and career of Walt Whitman and his *Leaves of Grass*. The full slate of dances will be announced later this spring, including a special family matinee designed for young audiences with shorter excerpts and a talkback session after the performance. Tickets are \$25 to \$65 and tickets to the family matinee are just \$20 (general admission) *per family* of up to six people total. Additional family member tickets are \$5 each. Tickets for this family event are available for purchase only through the Mahaiwe box office in person or via 413.528.0100.

In addition, there will be a screening of the 1998 documentary about Paul Taylor, *Dancemaker*, on Sunday, July 17 at 3:00pm. The film follows the choreographer and his dance company over several months. His genius, his roots, his method of working with dancers, and his sometimes difficult nature are captured in this revealing movie. Tickets are \$7 (general admission) and free to Mahaiwe members.

### **HD Broadcasts**

The Mahaiwe will present HD broadcasts by the Bolshoi Ballet, London’s National Theatre, Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company, and the Met Opera.

Scholars from Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival will speak at 12:40pm before each 1:00pm Bolshoi Ballet broadcast to give background about the dances. Director of Preservation Norton Owen will introduce *Spartacus* on March 13 and Scholar-in-Residence Brian Schaefer will introduce *Don Quixote* on April 24. The cost of each talk is included in the \$17 ticket per broadcast.

Academy Award-winner Martin McDonagh stars in London's National Theatre in HD production of Matthew Dunster's *Hangmen* on Sunday, March 20 at 3:00pm. Set in a pub, this deeply funny new play takes on the question: What's the second-best hangman in England to do on the day they've abolished hanging? Tickets are \$17.

On Sunday, May 15 at 1:30pm, master tea blender Michael Harney of Harney & Sons Fine Teas will host a pre-broadcast tea tasting at Castle Street Café next door to the Mahaiwe before a 3:00pm encore broadcast of London's National Theatre in HD production of *The Audience* by Peter Morgan. Helen Mirren won a Tony Award for her portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II in this play. Tickets are \$10 (tea only), \$17 (broadcast only), and \$25 (both tea and broadcast). The tea tasting and broadcast are free to Mahaiwe members.

The Mahaiwe will present broadcasts of five Met Opera Live in HD productions this spring, including Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* on Saturday, March 5 at 1:00pm (encore Wednesday, March 16 at 1:00pm), Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* on Saturday, April 2 at 1:00pm (encore Wednesday, April 13 at 1:00pm), Donizetti's *Roberto Devereux* on Saturday, April 16 at 1:00pm (encore Wednesday, April 27 at 1:00pm), and Strauss's *Elektra* on Saturday, April 30 at 1:00pm (encore Wednesday, May 11 at 1:00pm). In addition, scholar Scott Eyerly will continue his popular series of pre-opera talks two hours before each live broadcast. His fresh approach to opera draws novices and cognoscenti alike. Tickets are \$18 to \$25 per broadcast and \$10 per pre-broadcast lecture.

The Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company in HD production of *Romeo and Juliet* on Sunday, August 21 at 1:00pm reunites the stars of director Branagh's celebrated film of *Cinderella*. Richard Madden and Lily James play Romeo and Juliet and Derek Jacobi is Mercutio in Shakespeare's heartbreaking tale of forbidden love. Tickets are \$17.

### **Education**

The Mahaiwe education programs offer world-class theatrical experiences to students from throughout the tri-state region. This spring, the Mahaiwe will present two school field trip productions. Imago Theatre's *ZooZoo* on Friday, March 11 at 10:00am mixes acrobatics and mime. The madcap revue of illusion, comedy, and fun features penguins playing musical chairs, a cat trapped in a giant paper bag, hippos with insomnia, and anteaters as waiters.

Treehouse Shakers's *Under the Tangle* on Wednesday, April 27 at 10:00am is a visually vibrant, original dance mystery filled with unusual characters, such as whispering blackbirds, labyrinth guards, and the Queen of the Lost. The performance by this award-winning dance company acts as a metaphor for adolescence as an orphan forms new relationships, overcome obstacles, and discovers her true path.

For tickets to Mahaiwe school field trip events, contact Judy Reinauer at 413.644.9040 x103 or [education@mahaiwe.org](mailto:education@mahaiwe.org).

### **Community Presentations**

The Mahaiwe will also host presentations by Aston Magna Music Festival, Berkshire International Film Festival, Clark Art Institute, Close Encounters with Music, Monument Mountain Regional High School, Music in Common, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), and Project Native Film Festival. Details follow in the spring and summer calendar summary below.

### **More Shows to be Announced**

“Because the Mahaiwe is a dynamic, year-round organization, we’re constantly adding and announcing new shows,” said Beryl Jolly. “Events often sell quickly, so the best way to stay in touch is to sign up for weekly e-blasts and join us as a Mahaiwe member to enjoy early ordering options.”

### **Tickets**

Tickets to the newly announced spring and summer shows go on sale to Mahaiwe members on Wednesday, February 10 at 12 noon and on sale to the public on Wednesday, February 17 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](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. 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.

### **Mahaiwe 2016 Spring and Summer Schedule at a Glance**

Friday, March 4 at 8:00pm  
Monument Mountain Regional High School presents  
Monument Mountain Regional High School Pops Concert  
\$12 general admission

Saturday, March 5 at 11:00am (pre-broadcast lecture by Scott Eyerly)  
Saturday, March 5 at 1:00pm  
Wednesday, March 16 at 1:00pm (encore broadcast)  
Mahaiwe presents  
The Met: Live in HD  
Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*  
\$18 to \$25

Saturday, March 5 at 7:00pm  
Music in Common presents  
*From Madness to Music* short documentary film  
Free

Friday, March 11 at 10:00am  
Mahaiwe presents  
Imago Theatre's *ZooZoo*  
School field trip performance

Saturday, March 12 at 7:00pm  
Project Native Film Festival presents  
*Embracing the Greatest Challenge of Our Time*  
Free

Sunday, March 13 at 12:40pm (pre-broadcast talk by Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival  
Director of Preservation Norton Owen)  
Sunday, March 13 at 1:00pm  
Mahaiwe presents  
Bolshoi Ballet in HD  
*Spartacus*  
\$17

Saturday, March 19 at 6:00pm  
Close Encounters with Music presents  
*J.S. Bach & Sons Legitimate and Otherwise*  
\$25 to \$45

Sunday, March 20 at 3:00pm  
Mahaiwe presents



London's National Theatre in HD  
Matthew Dunster's *Hangmen*  
\$17

Saturday, April 2 at 11:00pm (pre-broadcast lecture by Scott Eyerly)  
Saturday, April 2 at 1:00pm  
Wednesday, April 13 at 1:00pm (encore broadcast)  
Mahaiwe presents  
The Met: Live in HD  
Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*  
\$18 to \$25

Sunday, April 10 at 7:00pm  
Mahaiwe presents  
Bestselling author David Sedaris  
\$48 to \$68

Saturday, April 16 at 11:00pm (pre-broadcast lecture by Scott Eyerly)  
Saturday, April 16 at 1:00pm  
Wednesday, April 27 at 1:00pm (encore broadcast)  
Mahaiwe presents  
The Met: Live in HD  
Donizetti's *Roberto Devereux*  
\$18 to \$25

Sunday, April 17 at 3:00pm  
Close Encounters with Music presents  
*Fiddler OFF the Roof*  
\$25 to \$45

Sunday, April 24 at 12:40pm (pre-broadcast talk by Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival  
Scholar-in-Residence Brian Schaefer)  
Sunday, April 24 at 1:00pm  
Mahaiwe presents  
Bolshoi Ballet in HD  
*Don Quixote*  
\$17

Wednesday, April 27 at 10:00am  
Mahaiwe presents  
Treehouse Shakers's *Under the Tangle*  
School field trip performance

Saturday, April 30 at 11:00pm (pre-broadcast lecture by Scott Eyerly)

Saturday, April 30 at 1:00pm

Wednesday, May 11 at 1:00pm (encore broadcast)

Mahaiwe presents

The Met: Live in HD

Strauss's *Elektra*

\$18 to \$25

Saturday, May 14 at 6:00pm

Close Encounters with Music presents

*The Arts of the String Quartet*

\$25 to \$45

Sunday, May 15 at 1:30pm (pre-broadcast Harney Tea tasting at Castle Street Café)

Sunday, May 15 at 3:00pm (encore broadcast)

Mahaiwe presents

London's National Theatre in HD

*The Audience*

\$10 (tea), \$17 (broadcast), \$25 (both tea and broadcast)

The tea tasting and broadcast are free to Mahaiwe members.

Friday, May 27 at 6:00pm

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) presents

The Mona Sherman Memorial Lecture

Author Joe Klein

Free

Thursday, June 2 through Sunday, June 5

Berkshire International Film Festival

Saturday, June 11 at 6:00pm

Close Encounters with Music presents

*Music That Shook The World*

\$25 to \$45

Saturday, July 2 at 8:00pm

Sunday, July 3 at 3:00pm

Mahaiwe presents

MOMIX

35<sup>th</sup> anniversary dance performance *VIVA MOMIX*

\$28 to \$78

Saturday, July 9 at 8:00pm  
Aston Magna presents  
J.S. Bach: Sacred & Secular  
Ticket prices TBA

Thursday, July 14 at 7:00pm  
The Mahaiwe and the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute present  
*From Naughty to Nice: Nudes from the Prado*  
Lecture by Lara Yeager-Crasselt, interim curator of paintings and  
sculpture  
Free

Sunday, July 17 at 3:00pm  
Mahaiwe presents  
Paul Taylor Documentary: *Dancemaker*  
\$7 and free to Mahaiwe members

Monday, July 18 at 8:00pm  
Mahaiwe presents  
*Mahaiwe Gala: Alan Cumming Sings Sappy Songs*  
Performance-only tickets are \$75 to \$150. Gala tickets, starting at \$500, include orchestra  
seating and a pre-show dinner, and will be available later this spring. Contact Dave  
Barrett for more information at [413.644.9040 ext. 106](tel:413.644.9040) or [dave@mahaiwe.org](mailto:dave@mahaiwe.org).

Friday, July 22 at 8:00pm  
Saturday, July 23 at 3:00pm  
Saturday, July 23 at 7:30pm  
Mahaiwe presents  
Paul Taylor Dance Company  
World-renowned modern dance  
\$20 to \$65

Saturday, July 30 at 8:00pm  
Mahaiwe presents  
The Fab Faux  
The Beatles's "A Hard Day's Night" in its entirety, plus a set of favorites.  
\$30 to \$90

Sunday, August 7 at 7:00pm  
Mahaiwe presents  
Tony Award-winner Kelli O'Hara  
An intimate evening featuring selections from the American Songbook  
\$35 to \$100

Sunday, August 21 at 1:00pm

Mahaiwe presents

Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company in HD

*Romeo and Juliet*

\$17