June 27, 2020
Created & Directed by
Paul Ricciardi

featuring, in order of appearance:

Jan Hopkins
Brett LaFave
Debby Mayer
Mark Senak

Antram Opera House 2020 season is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.
Dear Friends,

It is so exciting to kick off AOH’s 5th anniversary season with RPRS, a program that is an embodiment of what AOH is all about.

This is our tenth RPRS! We’ve had 35 storytellers come through our doors, each dedicating many hours to work on their story with me. When I reflect on my time coaching each storyteller, I feel grateful. This one-on-one collaboration with local residents is so rewarding as we share in the making of a story, often about a very personal event. It seems to me it’s also at the heart of being part of a community, a neighbor tells their story and the rest of us to have a chance to listen to it.

Tonight’s event is called RPRS: REDUX. We’ve invited back storytellers from the past five years, to retell their stories. Of course, they’re really not the same stories anymore; the lives of these storytellers have changed, and so their stories have changed.

It goes without saying, all of this has been happening on Zoom. Yes, these Zoom meetings are no match for the live, in-person connection. However, there is an intimacy in Zoom that I have found comforting. During these challenging times, it has been an honor to reconnect with Brett, Debby, Jan and Mark and, once again, have some time together to hear their story anew.

Jeff and I hope you enjoy tonight’s show, and look forward to sharing this summer’s 5th anniversary season with you.

RPRS Program Director

REAL PEOPLE REAL STORIES
from years past:

**WINTER 2019**
Kat Collins
Jordan Hurn
Barbara Peduzzi
Mark Senak

**SUMMER 2019**
Norm DeGurre
Tina Millman
Mark Senak
Diane Valden

**WINTER 2018**
Norm DeGurre
Ashley Hurn
Dean Irwin
Brett LaFave
Jenny Seham

**SUMMER 2018**
Marc Bachman
Elizabeth Bledsoe
Marilyn Oser
Audrey Irwin
Ellen Passage

**WINTER 2017**
Chris Atkins
Phil Halpern
Jan Hopkins
Lauren Letellier
Brett LaFave

**SUMMER 2017**
Mildred Asken
Lisa Morris
Ellen Thurston
Sherry Weaver

**WINTER 2016**
Peter Cipkowski
Jan Hanvik
Lauren Letellier
Darlene White
Ian Jarvis

**SUMMER 2016**
Peter Cipkowski
Martha Holmes
Debby Mayer
Sarah Jackson
Bobbie Slovensky
Aaron Stewart
The Real People

**Jan Hopkins** is an Emmy and Peabody Award-winning journalist and former anchor & correspondent at CNN. Prior to CNN she worked for ABC, CBS and for radio and television stations. She is past President of the Economic Club of New York, the first woman to fill this post. She is now President of The Jan Hopkins Group, specializing in media and presentation training. Hopkins is an independent director of Franklin Templeton Mutual Shares and Alternative Investment and is also a director of NASDAQ-listed Fintech Acquisition Corporation 3. She lives in Manhattan and Gallatin with her husband Richard Trachtman.

**Brett LaFave** teaches math at the Emma Willard School in Troy. He lives with his wife Lucy in Valatie, NY.

**Debby Mayer** writes stories for baby boomer women. Some of the stories are true, others are pure fiction, and most of them mix her experience with her imagination. She’s published a memoir, *Riptides & Solaces Unforeseen*; a novel, *Sisters*; short stories, journalism and essays, including “10 Scary Things I Have Done Since My Husband Died,” in *Widows’ Words*. She’s given readings, workshops and performances from her work in libraries, bookstores and community centers in New York and California. Her work has won awards, including grants in fiction and creative nonfiction from the New York Foundation for the Arts.

**Mark Senak** - After growing up near St. Louis, Mark Senak lived in New York City, Los Angeles, and Washington, DC before settling in Copake, New York. A lawyer, with a degree in creative writing, Mark began his career at the outset of the AIDS epidemic, working at the two largest U.S. AIDS service organizations – the Gay Men’s Health Crisis during the 1980s and AIDS Project Los Angeles in the 1990s. Today he is a public affairs consultant with the international communications firm Fleishman Hillard. He has written three books, one of which – *A Fragile Circle* – was a memoir about the early years of the AIDS epidemic in New York City.
AOH, celebrating its fifth anniversary under new leadership, offers an April-December season of theatre, cabaret, literary, storytelling and community programs.

AOH’s theatre productions include HOMEBODY (Berkshire Theatre Critics Award for Outstanding Solo Performance); WE’RE GONNA DIE; THE BROTHERS SIZE (Berkshire Theatre Critics nominations for Outstanding Ensemble and Outstanding Play); the American premiere of IN PRAISE OF ELEPHANTS; PERFORMING OLANA, an original site-specific piece staged at Olana; AUNT LEAF, also presented in Aguascalientes, Mexico; and the premiere of a new musical adaptation of THE SNOW QUEEN.

As an incubator of alternative cabaret, AOH hosts acclaimed artists including Taylor Mac in HOLIDAY SAUCE which went on to NYC’s Town Hall and San Francisco’s Curran Theater, Diana Oh who was subsequently produced at The Bushwick Starr in Brooklyn, and Stew and longtime collaborator Heidi Rodewald in STAGED DIVES which was then performed at Joe’s Pub in NYC.

CRYSTAL RADIO HOUR features new short stories written by Hudson Valley writers, including David Rabe and Courtney Maum, that are read by professional actors.

Community storytelling and theatre-making programs are very much at the heart of AOH’s programming. REAL PEOPLE REAL STORIES (RPRS), presented twice a year, features local residents sharing personal, authentic narratives. LOCAL CHARACTERS, debuting this year, showcases community members in fun, free-wheeling conversations. AOH leads storytelling workshops for young people at the Northeast Community Center and, this fall, 5th and 6th graders at the Taconic Hills School. For adult learners, AOH also offers an annual spring intensive workshop focusing on a particular area of theatre-making such as songwriting in 2019 and playwriting in 2020.

AOH MISSION

Ancram Opera House creates meaningful encounters through the performing arts that forge connection. Through its productions, AOH offers a unique opportunity to directly experience, up close, visionary theatre artists at the top of their field yet seldom seen in the region. AOH’s community-based arts and storytelling programs with local residents encourage day-to-day participation in the performing arts. AOH seeks to foster a sense of place for a rural region and contribute to a healthier and happier community.
FRIENDS

Sherrell Andrews & Bob Kuhbach
Ascher/Silverman Family
Chris Atkins & Lauren Letellier
Faye & Peter Auld
Renee Bailey
Art & Sue Bassin
Gavin Berger & Craig Berggren
Stephanie Bernheim
Bill & Sheryl Boris-Schacter
Walter Brett & Elizabeth Faulkner
Dan Dwyer & James Montanari
Suzan & Jonathan Flamm
Stephen Futrell & Thomas Goldsworthy
Michael Hofemann & Andrew Arrick
Meredith Kane
James Kennedy & Bob Bachler
Kevin L. King
Geraldine & Reinhold Kluge
Harry Kramer
Joyce & Jim Lapenn
Frank & Katherine Martucci
Kenneth Monteiro & Leo Blackman
Michela Nonis & Bob Moss
Joan Osofsky
Claudia Perles
Cathy Redlich & Rob Horwitz
Hila Richardson
Michael W. Roberts & Jay Corcoran
Margitta Rose
Mark Senak
Ken Stahl & Shirley Ripullone
Frank M. Volz, Jr.
Abigail Westlake
Barbara Wiechmann
Karen Zier & Walter Williamson
Eugenia Zukerman & Dick Novik

List as of June 22, 2020. If we inadvertently omitted your name or there is a correction to it, let us know and please accept our apologies. We are grateful to all of our supporters.
July 11 - 8pm
CRYSTAL RADIO SESSIONS
The local outpost of the NYC reading series, committed to showcasing the work of both established and emerging writers from the region. Hear short stories read by AOH audience favorite actors.

July 25 - 8pm
Series Premiere
LOCAL CHARACTERS
Introducing AOH’s newest program: lively, free-wheeling interviews with your friends and neighbors to learn what makes them tick.

August 7-16
SUMMER PLAY LAB
Fri & Sat - 8pm, Sun - 3pm
AOH is commissioning playwrights from the region to create solo and small cast plays to be performed by actors in staged readings.

Please go to www.ancramoperahouse.org to learn how to view these programs.
1330 County Route 7, Ancram, NY 518.329.0114