July 11, 2020

Curated by Ashley Mayne
Directed by Paul Ricciardi

Too Young For The Blues
by Wesley Brown

Read by
MaConnia Chesser
&
AnnChris Warren
TOO YOUNG FOR THE BLUES
by Wesley Brown (of Chatham, NY)
from his collection of stories entitled
Dance of the Infidels

BIOS

Wesley Brown is the author of a short story collection entitled Dance of the Infidels, from which “Too Young For The Blues” is taken. His novels include Push Comes to Shove, Darktown Strutters, and Tragic Magic. He is the author of four plays: Dark Meat on a Funny Mind, A Prophet Among Them, Life During Wartime, and Boogie Woogie and Booker T. Mr. Brown is the co-editor of a fiction multicultural anthology, Imagining America, and a nonfiction multicultural anthology, Visions of America, and he is editor of The Teachers & Writers Guide to Frederick Douglass. He is professor emeritus in English at Rutgers University (1979-2005) and was a visiting writer at Sarah Lawrence College in 2015. Mr. Brown has been teaching at Bard College at Simon’s Rock since 2007.


*member of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.
AnnChris Warren has worked with youth and young adults across the 50 states and in over 6 countries. Currently, AnnChris is the director of operations for Boys & Girls Club of Ulster County where among other duties she runs multiple performing arts programs. Past directing credits include Hairspray, For Colored Girls (When The Rainbow Is Enuf), Annie, Bye Bye Birdie, Pippin, and Cinderella. Performance credits include the title role in Aida, JoAnne in Rent, Dionne in Hair, Cassie in A Chorus Line, Justice in Rock of Ages, and the Witch in Into the Woods.

Ashley Mayne lives and writes in upstate New York. Her work has appeared, or is forthcoming in Fence, Post Road, Juked, Peripheries, Blight podcast, Metambesen, and elsewhere. She is one of the founders of Crystal Radio, and a fiction editor at Fence.

The Ancram Opera House presents a mix of contemporary theatre, alternative cabaret, storytelling and community programs. Located in a former grange hall in rural Columbia County, AOH offers a unique opportunity to directly engage, up close with visionary theatre artists at the top of their field, yet rarely seen in our region.

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ABOUT ANCRAM OPERA HOUSE

AOH, celebrating its fifth anniversary under new leadership, offers an April through 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.
List as of July 7 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.
To help bring performances and educational programs to the region, we invite you to become a Friend of the Ancram Opera House. We need the help of individuals like you who understand what it means to have an arts and culture space like this in Ancram.

Friends of Ancram Opera House will be thanked in printed programs, and also receive invitations to special Friends’ events. Most importantly, by becoming a Friend of AOH, you join a very special community of individuals ensuring that our activities can benefit all in the area, including free performances and theater workshops for kids.

Ancram Opera House is a 501c3 nonprofit organization; contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law. All funds raised go directly to support annual programming costs. Thank you for whatever you can do!

Yes, I’d like to become a friend of Ancram Opera House!

Please find my contribution of $_________

Name as you would like it to appear in acknowledgements:

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Please mail to:

Ancram Opera House  1330 County Route 7, Ancram, NY  12502

Or, donate online: www.ancramoperahouse.org
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 - 7pm
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