Jeffrey Mousseau & Paul Ricciardi
Directors

PRESENTS

July 25, 2020

Hosted by Paul Ricciardi

featuring

Mary Murfitt
&
Vemilo
Mary Murfitt (Ancramdale) is co-author (with Debra Monk, Mark Hardwick and Mike Craver) and original cast member of the critically acclaimed Off-Broadway musical, Oil City Symphony. Oil City Symphony received the Outer Critic’s Circle Award for Best Off-Broadway Musical and Murfitt received a Theatre World Award, Drama Desk Award and Joseph Jefferson Award citation for her work as an actor in Oil City. Among many other career highlights, Mary is the creator and composer/lyricist of the hit Off-Broadway musical, Cowgirls. She originated the role of Mary Lou in the Off-Broadway production and has appeared in numerous regional productions. She is a member of The Dramatists Guild, SDC (Stage Directors & Choreographers Society), ASCAP, Actors Equity and AFTRA.

Vemilo (Millerton) is a performance artist, poet, song writer, fashion designer, DJ and Lady Gaga aficionado. He is a homegrown Millerton original. Whether in the kitchen at The Watershed Center, the retreat and resource center for changemakers located just north of Millerton, or on a concert stage, Vemilo exudes courage, talent and so much damn charisma. His goal is to spread peace and love around the whole world through art and music — and he is well on his way.
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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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.
FRIENDS

List as of July 24, 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.

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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 $_________

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Please mail to:
Ancram Opera House  1330 County Route 7, Ancram, NY  12502

Or, donate online:  www.ancramoperahouse.org
COMING UP NEXT!
AOH is pleased to offer these virtual performances free of charge

A first look at innovative new work by Heather Christian, Frank Boyd and Mariah Ayscue, presented as staged readings.

Aug 7 - 8pm & Aug 16 - 7pm
Heather Christian
None: A Practical Breviary
A cosmic gospel hour of solo contemplation about the personal alchemy and power that can come from changing a feeling of isolation into a welcoming of solitude.

Aug 8 - 8pm & Aug 15 - 8pm
Frank Boyd
Live from Lodge #274: Auction Preview
(working title)
Inspired by findings from garage sales, estate auctions, thrift stores and eBay, Live From Lodge #274: Auction Preview, rummages through personal artifacts from everyday American life for perspective on the loss, reckoning and general strangeness of the current moment.

Aug 9 - 7pm & Aug 14 - 8pm
Mariah Ayscue
Mother Hope
Mother Hope is the feminine that the world forgot; she represents the herstory of Covid-19, The Black Lives Matter movement, The Say Her Name movement, the Resistance movement and the MMIW crisis.

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