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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2022 (updated from April 3)

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**THE OPEN EYE THEATER TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL READING
PERFORMANCES ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE**

The Open Eye Theater of Margaretville NY joins more than 60 other theater communities around the United States in a national play reading event: #ENOUGH: Plays to End Gun Violence. The readings will all take place on April 20, 2022, the 23rd Anniversary of the Columbine High School Shooting. Twelve students and one teacher were murdered that day.

#ENOUGH: Plays to End Gun Violence calls on teens to confront gun violence by creating new works of theatre that will spark critical conversations and meaningful action in communities across the country. On April 20, 2022, The Open Eye Theater will present a Zoom reading of the eight 10-minute plays.

The Zoom invitation for the reading on April 20th from 7-9pm, is below. The reading will be broadcast over WIOX community radio at 91.3 FM and streamed at wioxradio.org.

Michelle Macau is coordinator for The Open Eye Theater's participation in the national event. Directing the plays in The Open Eye Theater readings are Claire Beckman, Producing Artistic Director of Brave New World Repertory Theater in Brooklyn NY; Kubbi, of Kubbic Inch Productions in New York City; and Marge Helenchild and Michelle Macau, company directors of The Open Eye Theater in Margaretville, NY.

Following the readings, a discussion about the plays and the issues surrounding gun violence in our Catskill Mountain community will be facilitated by Arnie Schwartz of WIOX Board of Directors, Chair of the Margaretville Hospital Board of Directors and Founding member of the Catskill Addiction Coalition, Joyce St. George, and Dr. Simon Purdy, Professor of Criminal Justice at SUNY Delhi.

This year, eight plays were selected by a committee of award-winning playwrights including Pulitzer Prize finalist Rajiv Joseph and Drama Critics Circle Award winner Lydia R. Diamond, as well as Manuel Oliver, whose son Joaquin was murdered in the 2018 school shooting in Parkland, FL. The plays, all written by high school students, address gun violence through a variety of lenses and experiences.

The winning plays are: **McKenzie Boyd's** "*Southside Summer*," **Arianna Brumfield's** *Allegiance*, **Willa Colleary's** *Rehearsal*, **Anya Jiménez's** "*It's Okay*," **Taylor Lafayette's** "*Salted Lemonade*," **Tain Leonard-Peck's** "*In My Sights*," **Cameron Thiesing's** "*Undo, Redo*," and **Wyn Alyse Thomas' "Write Their Wrongs"**.

Performing in The Open Eye Theater readings are Ruben Almash, William Barnett, D. Malik Beckford, Jennice Carter, Thaiann Elizabeth, Gary Falk, Chaston Fox, Carmen Noemi Guzman, Saoirse Hooper, Ula Hooper, Maggie Horan, Atticus Idelman, Olivia Kinter, Troy Knauls, Bernie Mulvaney, Hakiem Porter, Nathaniel J. Ryan, Eriyon Tecson, Greg Thomas, Caleb Vaughan, Matthew Velez, Meredith Watson, Ian Whitt, among others.

Patrons are advised that the subject matter includes discussions - but not graphic depictions - of many forms of gun violence, including school shootings and officer-involved shootings.

For more information, email enough@theopeneyetheater.org, or visit The Open Eye's website at www.theopeneyetheater.org.

For more information about #ENOUGH and the Nationwide Reading visit <https://www.enoughplays.com/reading>.

ZOOM WEBINAR INVITATION TO REGISTER:

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Apr 20, 2022, 06:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Start time: 7:00pm

Topic: #ENOUGH

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_y3eyOvZURlqFTumGs9-7hA

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.