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# SYLVIA

THE OPEN EYE THEATER  
50  
50TH ANNIVERSARY

BY A. R. GURNEY

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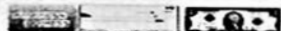
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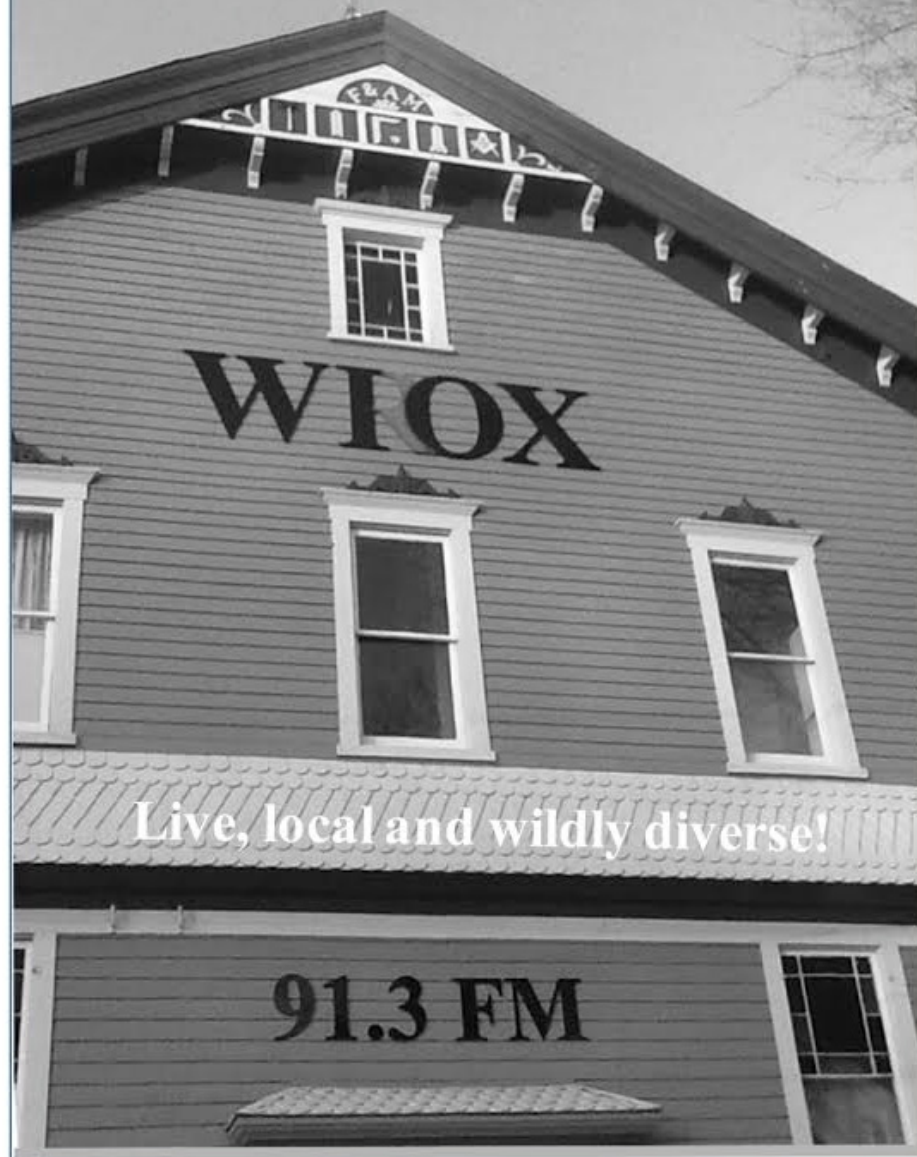
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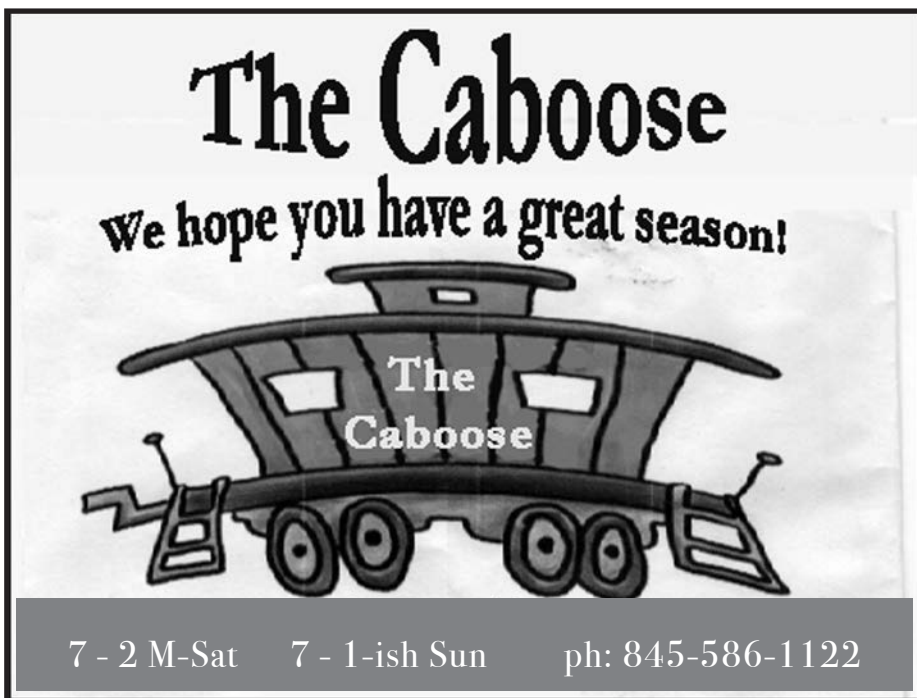


### **Mission**

Our mission is to produce high quality theater performances and other educational programming for a diverse population in the rural Catskill Mountain region and beyond — enriching the quality of life for theater artists, students, and audiences of all ages.

### **Programs**

- Professional Theater Productions of New Plays and Classics.
- Developmental Workshops and Rehearsed Readings
- Student Matinees of Selected Productions
- Arts-in-Education Partnership and School Residency Programs
- Acting and Playwriting Workshops
- The Open Eye Theater Playtime on WIOX Radio in the Catskills, 91.3 FM
- Special Events



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Reservations and more information call: 845-586-1660  
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Amie Brockway, Producing Artistic Director  
960 Main Street, P. O. Box 959  
Margaretville, NY 12455  
845-586-1660  
info@theopeneyetheater.org

Winner of  
AATE's Sara Spencer Award 2015 for Artistic Achievement  
Berilla Kerr Award for work on new American Plays  
and the  
Prestigious Aurand Harris Grant from  
the Children's Theatre Foundation of America

Nominated for the  
Orlin Corey Award for Artistic Excellence

### History

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> year of new play production at The Open Eye Theater. We were founded in New York City as Theater of the Open Eye in 1972, by the late famed dancer-choreographer Jean Erdman and her husband, the renowned mythologist Joseph Campbell. Renamed

The Open Eye Theater, we relocated to the Catskill Mountains in 1994, where, under the leadership of producing artistic director Amie Brockway, we performed in eighteen villages and hamlets before creating a permanent home for theater in Margaretville NY, in 2006.

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**The Open Eye Theater Productions: *In the Catskills***

*Continued from previous page*

**“Play Ball: Stories from the All American Girls Professional Baseball League”**

by Lesley Sawhill-Aja

“This Property is Condemned” by Tennessee Williams

“The Actor’s Nightmare” by Christopher Durang

“Tartuffe” by Moliere

“Today I Am” by Sandra Fenichel Asher

“Looking for Louie” by Stacie Chaiken

“The Hobbit” by Edward Mast/J. R. R. Tolkien

“Can’t Believe It” by R. N. Sandberg

“Family Matters” by Sandra Fenichel Asher

“The Secret School” by Dr. John Newman

“Pinocchio” by William Glennon/Carlo Collodi

“The Frog Prince” by David Mamet

“Duck Variations” by David Mamet

“Patio” by Jack Heifner

“Porch” by Jack Heifner

“Hello Out There” by William Saroyan

“The Sapphire Comb” by Moses Goldberg

“The Conference of the Birds”

by Jean-Claude Carriere/Peter Brook /Forid Uddi Attar

“A Christmas Carol” by John Jakes/Charles Dickens

“The Secret Garden” by Pamela Sterling/

Frances Hodgson Burnett

“As You Like It” by William Shakespeare

“Summertree” by Ron Cowen

“Seven Years of Bad Luck” by Wilma Mazo

“Slip Covers” by Vesti Snyder

“Dorian Gray” adapted from the novel by Oscar Wilde

“The End of Oz” by Dr. John Dilworth Newman/Frank Baum

“Keeping Mr. Lincoln” by Sandra Fenichel Asher

“Steel Magnolias” by Robert Harling

“Shirley Valentine” by Willy Russell

“A Year Down Yonder” by Dr. John Dilworth Newman

“The Princess and the Goblin” by Sandra Fenichel Asher

“The Tempest” by William Shakespeare

“A Christmas Party” by various writers

“Pepacton” by Amie Brockway/Patricia McKillip

**1991-Present**

“Ancestral Voices” by A.R. Gurney

“Summer Shortcuts” by various writers

“Walking Toward America” by Sandra Fenichel Asher

“Summer Shortcuts II” by various writers

“Holiday Musings” by various writers

“February Fantasia” by various writers

“Irving Berlin’s America” by Chip Deffaa

“Too Many Frogs” by Sandra Fenichel Asher

“Summer Shortcuts III” by various writers

“Flowers In The Desert” by Donna Hoke

“One Night With Fanny Brice” by Chip Deffaa

“Summer Shortcutsl IV” by various writers

“Death Valley...A Love Story” by Sandra Fenichel Asher

“Dulce Domum with The Reluctant Dragon”  
by Amie Brockway

“Anne of Green Gables” adapted by R.N. Sandberg

“Summer Shortcuts V” by various writers

“Summer Shortcuts VI” by various writers

“The Man Behind The Curtain” by J.D. Newman

“Sandy and the Weird Sisters” by J.D. Newman

“A Christmas Carol” adapted by Tania Myren

“The Road To Riverbank”

a radio play by Amie Brockway

“Midsummer Madness” by Tania Myren

“Summer Shortcuts VIII” by various writers

“The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane”

adapted by Dwayne Hartford from the book by Kate DiCamillo

“Amber Waves” by James Still

“Summer Shortcuts IX” by various writers

“The Belle of Amherst” by William Luce

“Louisa May Alcott, The Power of a Woman”

by Pamela Sterling

“Summer Shortcuts X, Part I” by various writers

“Summer Shortcuts X, Part II” by various writers

“Monologue Free-For-All” by various writers

“A Wing and a Prayer” by Anne Barone

“Summer Shortcuts XI” by various writers

“Our Town” by Thornton Wilder

“Fidelio” by Sandra Fenichel Asher

“Summer Shortcuts XII” by various writers

THE OPEN EYE THEATER  
Producing artistic director Amie Brockway  
presents

**SYLVIA**

By A. R. Gurney

Directed by Michelle Macau

CAST

SYLVIA ..... Patricia Van Tassel  
GREG..... David Hill  
KATE..... Lisa Ruth Mays  
TOM..... Ward Stevenson  
PHYLLIS, LESLIE..... Elizabeth Sherr

STAGE MANAGER: Kathy Taylor

COSTUMES: Saoirse Hayes Hooper

TECHNICAL DIRECTION, LIGHTING, AND SOUND: Erwin Karl

Time: A Few Years Ago.

Place: A Manhattan Apartment

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

Special Thanks:

Dr. Curt Sather, Recording of Instrumental Version of Everytime We Say Goodbye  
Stephen H. Swartz, SYLVIA tag line on poster  
Arthur Lundquist, NYC skyline images  
Fairview Public Library, Margaretville, Loan of computer desk  
Mary Certoma, Phoenicia Arts & Antiques, Loan of Bola tie  
Darlene DeMaille, dog cone  
David Hill, Time and use of pick-up truck to haul set pieces  
April Iannotti, Allowing maximum flexibility of work schedule to Patti Van Tassel

Produced through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.



This program is made possible by the NYS Council on theArts, with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.

# Meet the Artists

## Meet the Artists:

**AMIE BROCKWAY** (*Producing Artistic Director*) is the proud recipient of the Sara Spencer Award of Artistic Achievement from the American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE), and winner of the Children's Theater Foundation Aurand Harris Grant, and Artistic Visionary Award from The Working Theater. She was a nominee for the Orlin Corey Award for Artistic Excellence in 2020. Her directing credits at The Open Eye include "Our Town," "Amber Waves," "Seneca Falls," "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane," "One Night with Fanny Brice," "Irving Berlin's America," "Walking Toward America," "Romeo and Juliet," "The Tempest," "A Woman Called Truth," and numerous other productions of full-length and ten-minute plays, American and world classics, and musicals. Her own plays "The Odyssey," and "The Nightingale," are published by Dramatic Publishing Company. She has directed new works and participated in new play development projects at the Bonderman National Youth Theater Playwriting Symposium, New Visions/New Voices at The Kennedy Center, Write Now in Tempe AZ and Indianapolis IN, the Coterie in Kansas City, and ALAP (Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights). She has performed in Open Eye productions of Tanya Myren's "Midsummer Madness," Sandra Fenichel Asher's "Keeping Mr. Lincoln," A. R. Gurney's "Ancestral Voices," John Newman's "A Year Down Yonder," several productions of "A Christmas Carol," Leon Kaye's "More Pasta," a ten-minute play in SUMMER SHORTCUTS XII, among others. She is co-host of "The Open Eye Theater Playtime" on WIOX Radio in the Catskills 91.3 FM, and wioxradio.org. She is a member of SAG/AFTRA, The Dramatists Guild, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, and is a past co-president of the League of Professional Theater Women.

**DAVID HILL** (*Greg*) graduated from Carnegie Mellon with a BFA in Drama (Scenic Design.) After working in Art Direction on a few films immediately following

(continued on next page)

## The Open Eye Theater Productions:

In the Catskills  
1991-Present

"**Mother Hicks**" by Suzan L. Zeder  
"**The Wise Men of Chelm**" by Sandra Fenichel Asher  
"**Amber Waves**" by James Still  
"**Winter in the Catskills and Other Delights**  
by various Catskill Mountain writers  
"**Remember my Name**" by Joanna Halpert Kraus  
"**The Adventures of Halvor Askelad**"  
by Tony Howarth  
"**The House of the Seven Gables**"  
Bryan Williams/Nathaniel Hawthorne  
"**Once in the Time of Trolls**" by Sandra Fenichel Asher  
"**Blueprints from Space**" by Mark Leiren-Young  
"**Reading Louis**" by Walt Vail  
"**Tales of Hiil and Hollow**"  
by various Catskill Mountain writers  
"**The Dunbar Murders**" by Walt Vail  
"**Adam and Eve (somewhat later)**" by Bill Green  
"**Pops**" by Philip Potak  
"**I Will Sing Life**" by Sandra Fenichel Asher  
"**Across the Plains**" by Sandra Fenichel Asher  
"**Selkie**" by Laurie Brooks Gollobin  
"**A Certain Raquel**" by Nora Glickman  
"**The Bog Witch**" by Anne McGravie  
"**The Wolf and Its Shadows**"  
by Sandra Fenichel Asher  
"**The Nightingale**" by William Electric Black/Amie Brockway/  
Hans Christian Andersen  
"**A Midsummer Night's Dream**"  
by William Shakespeare  
"**A Liar's Stew**" by Mark Rosenwinkel  
"**Pipe Dreams**" by Evelyn Ellsworth  
"**Swan Song**" by Ellie Serena  
"**No One's Home**" by Philip Potak  
"**Onteora**" by Philip Potak  
"**A Letter From Mary**" by Amie Brockway with  
*The Delaware County Historical Assoc. Archives*  
"**Homeless Woman with Van**" by Ellie Serena  
"**Plane Crash**" by Ellie Serena  
"**That's Why They Call Us Colored, Bless  
Their Hearts**" by J. e Franklin  
"**Shacking Up Gray**" by J. e Franklin  
"**Mrs. Jones and the Man From Dixieland**"  
by Steven Sater  
"**Benediction**" by Steven Sater  
"**Hymns of Zacharias**" by Steven Sater  
"**Thunder Mountain**" by Sandra Fenichel Asher  
"**Rip's Journey on the D&U Railride**"  
by Philip Potak

"**Noah's Wife**" by Sybil Rosen  
"**Relative Strangers**" by Sheri Wilner  
"**Hedges**" by Philip Potak  
"**Duet for Bear and Dog**" by Sybil Rosen  
"**Pipe Dreams**" by Evelyn Ellsworth  
"**Swan Song**" by Ellie Serena  
"**Sundiata**" by Edward Mast  
"**Hoax!**" by Pamela Monk  
"**The Cretaceous Cabaret Presents Hieronymous  
Bones in the Case of the Vanishing Dinosaurs**"  
by Dennis Livingston  
"**The Weaver and the Sea**" by Julia Steiny  
"**Frost in the Valley**" poems by Robert Frost  
"**Home Safe**" by Ellen Cooper  
"**Freddy, the King of Detectives**"  
by Sandra Fenichel Asher  
"**Romeo and Juliet**" by William Shakespeare  
"**The Reluctant Dragon**" by Mary Hall Surface  
"**You Alice and Me**" by Amie Brockway/Lewis Carroll  
"**Wiley and the Hairy Man**" by Suzan Zeder  
"**Anne of Green Gables**" by R. N. Sanberg/L. M.  
Montgomery  
"**Gary Grinkle's Battles with Wrinkles and  
Other Troubles in Mudgeville**" by Stefan Lanfer  
"**A Woman Called Truth**" by Sandra Fenichel Asher  
"**Tell Me a Story, Sing Me a Song**"  
by various Catskill Mountain writers  
"**Once, in the Time of Trolls**" by Sandra Fenichel  
Asher  
"**The Wide Awake Princess**" by David Paterson/Katherine  
Paterson  
"**John Chapman and The Devil**" by Mary Barile  
"**Shame the Devil!**" by Anne Ludlum  
"**Our Town**" by Thornton Wilder  
"**The Tomato Plant Girl**" by Wesley Middleton  
"**A Cricket on the Hearth**" by Amie Brockway/Charles  
Dickens  
"**The Emperor's New Clothes**"  
by Ric Averil/ Hans Christian Andersen  
"**Pixies, Kings and Magical Things**  
by Ric Averil/Hans Christian Andersen  
"**Speckled Birds**" by Shirley Lauro  
"**Ragamuffin**" by Amie Brockway-Henson  
"**Twelfth Night**" by William Shakespeare  
"**Crow and Weasel**" by Jim Leonard

Continued on next page



# The Open Eye Theater Productions:

In New York City  
1972-1994

**“Moon Mysteries”** a program of plays by W. B. Yeats:  
“*The Cat and the Moon*”; “*A Full Moon in March*”  
“*Calvary*”; “*The Only Jealousy of Emer*”  
“*Rapid Transits*” by Jean Erdman

**“An Event in the Time of Moulting Swans”** poetry  
**“Haitian Suite”** by Teiji Ito  
**“Fire and Ice”** celebrating Robert Frost  
**“Hernani”** by Victor Hugo  
**“The Women of Trachis”** by Sophocles/Ezra Pound  
**“Orphee”** by Jean Cocteau  
**“Sun Door”** by Dan Erkkila  
**“Raven’s Dance”** by Eric Bass  
**“OP Odyssey”** arranged by Valerie Hammer  
**“Gauguin in Tahiti”** by Jean Erdman and Teiji Ito  
**“A Taste of East and West in Dance”**  
Leslie Dillingham and Ari Darom

**“The Wanderings of a Good Soul Interiors”**  
by Tamar Rogoff and Ari Darom

**“Fontana”** created by Valerie Hammer  
**“Moon on Snow”** by Ken Gaertner  
**“The Shining House”** by Jean Erdman  
**“The Coach with Six Insides”** by Jean Erdman  
based on James Joyce’s *Finnegans Wake*  
**“Masque of Dawn”** by Eric Bass  
**“George and the Dragon”** by John Patrick Shanley  
**“A Memorial for Michio Ito”**  
with Satora Shimazski and Co.

**“Demeter’s Daughters”**  
conceived by Nancy Allison/Robert Mahaffay

**“Three NOH Plays”** by Ulich O’Connor  
**“Damien”** by Aldyth Morris  
**“Redeye”** by Steven Tenney  
**“Holiday Dance Festival”**  
**“The Sun Gets Blue”** by William Electric Black  
**“Punch with Judy”** by Rosemary Foley  
**“The Ditch”** by Ann Scofield adapted from Jakov Lind  
**“Behind A Mask”** by Karen L. Lewis/Louisa May Alcott  
**“Phantom Limbs”** by Charles Borkhuis  
**“LaBelle Au Bois”** by Jules Supervielle/Irma Brandies  
**“A Cricket on the Hearth”** by Amie Brockway  
adapted from Charles Dickens

**“Under Heaven’s Eye...Till Cockcrow”**  
by J. e. Franklin

**“Presque Isle”** by Joyce Carol Oates  
**“Scapin”** by Amie Brockway, adapted from Moliere  
**“She Also Dances”** by Kenneth Arnold  
**“The Dream of Kitamura”** by Philip Kan Gotanda  
**“Miss Julie”** by August Strindberg/Harry G. Carlson  
**“The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”**  
by Alice Hale, adapted from Washington Irving

**“Jean Erdman Retrospective 1942 – 1985”**  
**“The Bone Ring”** by Donald Hall  
**“The Alchemist”** by Amie Brockway/Ben Jonson  
**“The Nightingale”** by William “Electric” Black/Hans  
Christian Andersen

**“A Taste of Honey”** by Shelagh Delaney  
**“The Odyssey”** by Amie Brockway/Homer  
**“A Folk Tale Quartet”** by William “Electric” Black/  
folk literature

**“A Circle on the Cross”** by Thomas Cadwaleder Jones  
**“The Angel of Warsaw”** by Marisha Chamberlain  
**“Angalak”** by Walt Vail  
**“The Wall Inside”** by Thomas Cadwaleder Jones  
**“Red Monkeys”** by Richard Strand  
**“Leander Stillwell”** by David Rush  
**“The Bog Witch”** by Anne McGravie  
**“Just Somewhere a Rainbow”** by Robyn Dana Guest  
**“Gardenia’s ‘n Blum”** by Nicholas A. Patricca  
**“Earth and Sky”** by Douglas Post  
**“Til the Fat Lady Sings”** by Scott McPherson  
**“Tell You Tomorrow”** by Thomas Cadwaleder Jones  
**“At the Hawg Rock Café”** by Thomas Cadwaleder Jones  
**“On the Road to East L.A.”** by Thomas Cadwaleder Jones  
**“Calling Me Home”** by Bruce Tracy  
**“Dearest Cousin”** by Enid Rudd  
**“The Contrast”** by Royall Tyler  
**“A Woman Called Truth”** by Sandra Fenichel Asher  
**“On the Move”** by Tony Howarth  
**“Dolls”** by Anne McGravie  
**“Cotillion”** by David Rush  
**“This Unfinished Reach”** by Robyn Dana Guest  
**“Hanging By a Pin Stripe”** by Richard Strand  
**“An Uncertain Hour”** by Nicholas A. Patricca  
**“A Place Beyond the Clouds”** by Sandra Bianco  
**“Eagle or Sun”** by Savina Berman  
**“Children Last”** by Ann McGravie  
**“The Idea of Chaos (Sex, Death, Life, and  
Order) at Key West”** by Nicholas A. Patricca  
**“Houston’s Blood”** by Ron Mark  
**“The Wise Men of Chelm”** by Sandra Fenichel Asher  
**“The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes”**  
by Suzan L. Zeder/ Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
**“The Chimes”** by Conrad Bishop and Elizabeth Fuller/  
Charles Dickens

**“Just Before Sleep”** by James Still  
**“Freedom Is My Middle Name”** by Lee Hunkins  
**“And the Tide Shall Cover the Earth”**  
by Norma Cole

**“Bocon!”** by Lisa Loomer

## Meet the Artists (continued)

college, he embarked on the “freelance life.” This included some quite interesting projects, many uninteresting projects, little money and a romp through Pre-Med. (Nobody told him that medical schools were uninterested in training forty-year-olds.) So, it was back to film for him. He is a proud member of IATSE Local 52 Motion Picture Studio Mechanics and is now easing into retirement from the Film/TV/Streaming world after many years of working in and around NYC, Connecticut and Philadelphia. This production of SYLVIA marks his return to the stage for the first time since college. He wishes to thank his wife, Kathleen O’Hanlon, for her unwavering support, encouragement and, of course, tireless running of lines with him. She’s the best. Many, many thanks to The Open Eye Theater for this opportunity. As a career behind-the-scenes worker, he very much appreciates all the hard work provided by those responsible for shepherding this production along. They are truly the unsung heroes of the theatre.

**SAOIRSE HOOPER** (*Costumes*) is 19 years old and was homeschooled until her high school graduation in 2020. She’s been working as a barista in her family’s farm-to-table cafe since 2015, and for the last two years has stepped in as a junior manager on her family’s farm. She’s from a small rural town, with a rich community of theater folk, including professional actors, an accent coach, musicians, directors, and professors. She has participated in two productions with The Open Eye Theater, playing Rebecca Gibbs/Sam Craig in their production of Thornton Wilder’s “Our Town,” as well as Caramia in “Fidelio,” by Sandra Fenichel Asher. She has also worked with the community theater in her own town, the Theater Project of Schoharie County (TPSC), and currently serves on their board! Special thanks to Michelle Macau for inviting her to help with the costumes in this production!

**ERWIN A. KARL** (*TD, Lighting & Sound*) has been involved in most theater operations over the last 14

(continued on next page)

# Meet the Artists

# Meet the Artists

## Meet the Artists (continued)

years: acting; designing and implementing audio, lights and video, as well as props and set pieces; maintenance, repairs and construction on the theater building; and serving as trustee and chair on The Open Eye board. He has also served on boards for the Michael Kudish Natural History Preserve, Mid-Hudson Mycological Association, Catskill Mountain Club, Andes Sprouts Society, and Rensselaer Alumni Association. He has written scripts and acted for other regional non-profits, and volunteers as a host for WIOX, a community radio station in the central Catskills.

**MICHELLE MACAU** (*Director*) most recently co-directed the monologues for the Town of Middletown Historical Society's 2022 Cemetery Tour, and spear-headed the #ENOUGH Plays Against Gun Violence project for The Open Eye and WIOXradio. She began working with The Open Eye Theater in 2004, first as a Teaching Artist in the local schools, and then as an actor and director in various "Summer Shortcuts" productions, most recently directing "For the Record" by F.J. Hartland, "Onward We Row" by Nicolette Vatjay, "Scratch, Scratch, Scratch, Thunk" by Sandra Fenichel Asher. Before the pandemic, she directed "Cradle" by Jean Bergantini Grillo for the Strawberry One-Act Festival in NYC. Acting roles include Williams in "Dirk Burrows" at the Chain Theatre in NYC; the Stage Manager in Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" at The Open Eye Theater, and various readings of new plays on ZOOM and WIOXradio. Her independent film experience includes "Off the Deep End" by Joseph Davidson, "Zenith" by Ellie Foubmi, and "The White Slippers" by Annie Bradford. She is a member of P.A.G.E.S. (Playwrights & Actors, Growing, Encouraging & Supporting) and holds an MFA in Directing from Carnegie-Mellon University. Thank you, Amie Brockway for the opportunity to direct "Sylvia," a long-held dream. AEA/SAG-AFTRA. Contact @ 917.488.6654.

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# Contributors

October 1, 2021 - To Present

## Grants

The New York State Council on the Arts  
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## Meet the Artists (continued)

**LISA RUTH MAYS** (*Kate*) was born in Los Angeles, CA, into a musical family. At an early age her mother took her to the local dance studio where she studied ballet and tap, performing in numerous recitals. She also studied ballet at the American School of Ballet and was the youngest member in the Jazz Studio of Robert Banas--both studios on Hollywood Blvd. Lisa also began singing quite young and played the piano and violin. Over the years Lisa has stayed active in music and performance, even while serving as an Ordained Minister for 20 years. She has lived in Delaware County since 2008 and this is Lisa's fourth production with The Open Eye Theater.

**ELIZABETH SHERR** (*Phyllis and Leslie*) is excited to play the roles of Phyllis and Leslie in A. R. Gurney's play "Sylvia". Earlier this summer she was the director for "The Back Porch Gang" by Ben Scranton and "More Pasta" by Leon Kaye. She played the characters of Michelle in "A Life Enriching Community" by Philip M Williams and Georgette in "Weaving a Tapestry" by Enid Cokinos. During Summer of 2021 she acted in Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" and many of the previous Summer Shortcut productions at The Open Eye Theater. In the past she has portrayed such characters as Elmire in Moliere's "Tartuffe," Stephano in Shakespeare's "The Tempest," "Twelfth Night," "As You Like It," Sandra Fenichel Asher's "Death Valley: A Love Story," M'Lynn in Robert Harling's "Steele Magnolias," and Eddie in A. R. Gurney's "Ancestral Voices" and various characters in different productions of Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol." She portrayed Brigett in the World Premier of Donna Hoke's "Flowers in the Desert." She acted in Sue Fabisch's "Motherhood Out Loud!" produced by Performance Plus in Stamford, NY. She has written and performed monologues for the Middletown Historical Society's Cemetery Tours. She has worked with The Open Eye Theater's educational partnerships

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# Meet the Artists

# Meet the Artists

## Meet the Artists (continued)

since 2003, developing curriculum-based theater projects, directing and writing plays for students. Currently she is an instructor at SUNY Delhi. She serves as Treasurer on the Board of Directors for WIOX Radio Station in Roxbury, NY and a cohost to “Playtime;” Trustee on the Board of The Open Eye Theater in Margaretville, NY. She lives in Roxbury, NY and loves hiking with her dogs in all kinds of weather.

**WARD STEVENSON** (*Tom*) was the original founder of Imago Theatres in Manhattan, and staged Equity showcases under the auspices and guidance of Theodore Bikel. Ward has played many roles at The Open Eye Theatre, memorably as the Director in “The Directawr and the Actawr.” He has toured and recorded as a singer-songwriter and actor. He worked as a Manhattan book editor and studied acting at The Hillberry Classic Theatre in Michigan and method acting in Manhattan with Connie Van Ess of The Actors Studio. He was an actor apprentice at Asbury Playhouse in New Jersey, where he worked one-on-one with Richard Jordan and many other theatre professionals. He played and sang as Feste the Jester in Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night.” He won two awards at The SUNY Purchase Theatre Festival-- one as Best Character Actor. He performed in several theatre musicals, notably at The Mountain Dale Playhouse under Bernie Barr and at The Open Eye Theatre in “Seneca Falls” by Karen Howes and Elliot Sokolov under the direction of Amie Brockway and Richard Tucker. Ward has appeared twice in The Living History Cemetery Tours of Margaretville. He is married to Linda Demsky Stevenson and is a father and grandfather.

**KATHARINE TAYLOR** (*Stage Manager*) made her acting debut in summer 2022 at The Open Eye Theatre in Summer Shortcuts XII, playing Myrtle in “The Back Porch Gang”, Julie in “Home,” Char in “SCARS,” Kathy in “Canyon’s Edge.” She is also

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## Meet the Artists (continued)

serving The Open Eye Theatre in the role of Marketing and Audience Development. Kathy recently relocated to Roxbury, NY from Providence, RI, where she worked as a professor of computer science at Johnson & Wales University. She enjoys learning, gardening, crafting, and spending time with friends and family while keeping an open mind to whatever may come her way in the future.

**PATRICIA VAN TASSEL** (*Sylvia*) an independent artist, writer, and performer is thrilled to be back at The Open Eye Theater working with such a great and talented pack of people! Credits include off-Broadway production tour of “Finnegan’s Farewell;” and performances at The Treehouse Theater and Dramatist’s Guild in NYC, as well as numerous regional performances including the one-woman shows, “Shirley Valentine,” “The Belle of Amherst,” “Shame the Devil!” and the world premiere of Sandra Fenichel Asher’s “Walking Toward America,” directed by Amie Brockway. Van Tassel was commissioned to write and develop the premiere character tours of Dorothea Lange at the Fenimore Art Museum and the Susan Fenimore Cooper Garden Tour at the Farmer’s Museum in Cooperstown. She wrote “The Last Day of Dorothy Lillian Phelps,” which received its first public reading at The Open Eye Theater in July 2015. A member of ASCAP, albums include “White Coat Consequences” (2022) and “Hope and Fear” (2017). A graduate of Pratt Institute, Van Tassel’s paintings have been accepted in numerous National Juried shows, and illustrations have been published in scientific books and papers. With a reminder to all that we old dogs need loving homes too, she dedicates her performances of “Sylvia” to the memory of her life’s most steadfast friends- Susie, Sam, Jack, Sunny, Honey, and Luke.

# Meet the Artists