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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE OPEN EYE THEATER PRESENTS “THUNDER MOUNTAIN”

A new play performed in old-time radio theater style makes its debut at The Open Eye Theater in October. This 30-minute fantasy, written by Sandra Fenichel Asher, is geared toward young and family audiences, best appreciated by ages 8 and up. “Thunder Mountain” will have five stage performances with one being simultaneously broadcast on The Open Eye Theater Playtime show on WIOX. There will also be post-show conversations with the audience.

“There is always hope – especially if we can depend on one another.” These are the words of brave young Joanna, who ventures up a mountain to try and succeed where others have failed – to confront a dragon who has stolen the sun and sent her village into darkness. Joanna attempts the journey alone but is unexpectedly supported by her friend, Thomas, and a few others, in the spirit of unity. The play is enhanced by the environmental music of Brenda C. Kayne, as well as the creative sound effects of an ensemble cast.

Darlene DeMaille plays older Joanna, the story teller, while younger Joanna is played by Maya Raffaele. Joanna’s ill father, also a story teller, is played by John Exter. Thomas, Joanna’s friend, is played by Sunny Piets. Lisa Ruth Mays takes the role of the fearsome Dragon. The Ensemble cast includes Ron Brockway, Zamyra Maxim, Betty McCaffrey and Roman Piets. Amie Brockway directs the production. Set Design is done by Ron Brockway and costumes by Pip Merrick. Co-Stage Managers are Darlene DeMaille and Betty McCaffrey. Lights and recorded sounds are by Erwin Karl, who also serves as host for the WIOX Playtime performance.

The Open Eye Theater is located at 960 Main Street in Margaretville. Performances are scheduled for Saturdays, October 8th and 15th at 7 pm, and Sundays, October 9th and 16th at 3 pm. On Tuesday, October 11th at 6 pm, an audience-filled stage performance will take place at the same time as a broadcast on The Open Eye Theater Playtime show on WIOX Radio in the Catskills at 91.3 FM and streaming everywhere at wioxradio.org.

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Tickets for “Thunder Mountain” are Pay What You Will, suggested \$10. The theater is fully accessible with parking behind the theater in the Margaretville village lot. Refreshments are available. Vaccines are recommended and masks optional.

This program is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature. It is also made possible by support from the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O’Connor Foundation, The Hudson Valley Foundation for Youth Health, the Hobson/Lucas Family Foundation, and Business and Individual Contributors.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit the website at theopeneyetheater.org, or call (845) 586-1660.

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