

ANCRAM 
OPERA HOUSE

Jeffrey Mousseau & Paul Ricciardi
Directors

PRESENTS

**REAL
PEOPLE
REAL
STORIES**

*An evening of live storytelling under the stars at
The Hilltop Barn in Roeliff Jansen Park, Hillsdale*

August 7, 2021

Created & Directed by Paul Ricciardi

featuring

Ron Bixby

Joe Gosler

Samara Klein

Mark Senak



**Council on
the Arts**

Anqram Opera House 2021 season is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

BIOS

RON BIXBY is the owner of Little Apple Cidery. He lives in Hillsdale, NY with his wife Alanne. Since 1980 they have operated Little Apple Farm, a certified organic apple orchard on Orchard Lane. Ron is originally from Appleton, Wisconsin.

His story is about how he survived WWII without having been in it.

JOE GOSLER was born in the Netherlands during WWII. He has worked in educational settings in the capacity of Business Manager for 40 years. He and his wife founded the pre-school Beginnings Nursery; they have a son, and divide their time between NYC and Ancramdale, NY. Mr. Gosler is retired and today he's involved in several Quaker projects, writing, gardening, traveling and walking his dog.

He talks about the impact of war on a toddler, hidden during WWII in the Netherlands.

SAMARA KLEIN is a bookworm who works in book publishing and will soon be a student of library science. She lives in Housatonic with her partner, daughter, dog, and a few other critters.

She tells a story about life lessons garnered from school bus drivers.

MARK SENAK works in health care public affairs with an international communications firm and has taught communications in a graduate program at Georgetown University. He relocated full time to Columbia County in 2018 and lives with his extremely annoying but exceedingly handsome Old English Sheepdog Archie, who was named after Cary Grant.

He tells a story about his experience discovering that sometimes nature has a way of taking something we already know on an intellectual level and making the point stick on an emotional one.

Special Thanks to:

**Town of Hillsdale
and
Little Apple Cidery**

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Next at AOH!

LIVE at various Ancram locations
Aug 12 - 15

Three original short plays performed at secret outdoor locations near the Opera House.



ABOUT ANCRAM OPERA HOUSE

AOH offers an annual 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 Brother's Size* (Berkshire Theatre Critics nominations for Outstanding Ensemble and Outstanding Production of a 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, most recently, reprised as part of Festival Universitario de Teatro, Baja California, Mexico; and the premiere of a new musical adaptation of *The Snow Queen*.

As an incubator of new performance, AOH hosts *Summer Play Lab* which supports the creation of innovative productions by theatre-makers including Heather Christian and Frank Boyd and presents early editions of new, alternative cabaret performances with acclaimed artists such as 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 and Tri-state regional writers, including Jo Ann Beard, Wesley Brown, David Rabe and Courtney Maum, that are read by professional actors.

Community engagement is 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* showcases community members in fun, free-wheeling short form conversations. AOH leads storytelling workshops for young people at the Northeast Community Center and 5th and 6th graders at the Taconic Hills School. For adult learners, AOH also offers free writing and theatre-making workshops each year.

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.

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List as of August 6, 2021. 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 group of individuals ensuring that our activities can benefit all in the area through a range of community arts programs.

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!

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