

ANCRAM OPERA HOUSE

Jeffrey Mousseau & Paul Ricciardi
Directors

PRESENTS



August 13 -15, 2021

BASEBALL IS DEAD

written & performed by Frank Boyd*

IN A MILLION YEARS

by Georgina Escobar
with Andrea Morales* and Aaron J. Stewart

POOF!

written & performed by Celeste Lecesne*

***member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.**

The Plein Air Plays is made possible through additional support from a NYSCA Restart NY: Rapid Live Performance Grant.



**Council on
the Arts**

Ancram 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.

Hi there!

The past 18+ months have been undeniably difficult for so many and, at the very least, a lesson in how we can adapt to changing circumstances. For us at AOH, this need for flexibility has brought about some unexpected, silver linings.

Last year, we deepened our commitment to new play development by launching the Summer Play Lab, offered virtually when it was impossible for us to gather in person. Already, AOH has supported over ten artists creating innovative new performance—from this year's team Tidtaya Sinutoke, Isabella Dawis and Nana Dakin making *Sunwatcher*, a multi-layered performance about a Japanese astronomer to Heather Christian's aural odyssey, *None*, presented last season.

This year, we introduce *The Plein Air Plays* which we conceived during the spring when it was still very unclear if indoor, in-person performances would be feasible. While, in the end, it might have been possible to be back at the Opera House, we're so glad to be offering this outdoor theatrical triptych. For it, three artists are creating site specific, bespoke short plays just for you and the setting in which they are taking place.

Most plays take us on a journey; for *The Plein Air Plays*, the experience also includes the travel to each performance location. So, in addition to celebrating the return to live theater, *The Plein Air Plays* builds in time to take in nature. We hope you enjoy the ride!



Jeffrey Mousseau & Paul Ricciardi
Directors, Ancram Opera House

THANK YOU!

A very special thank you to our gracious hosts for making
The Plein Air Plays possible!

For the baseball field at Blass Memorial Park:
The Town of Ancram

For the pond at Doodletown Farm:
Bob Murphy and Jack Lindsey

For the gardens and grounds with a 200-year-old oak tree:
Betzie and Keith Bendis



IN A MILLION YEARS

by Georgina Escobar

Cast

Elena.....**Andrea Morales**

Dallas.....**Aaron J. Stewart**

Time

The present. The past. The present.

Jeffrey Mousseau, Director

Vanessa Cappuccio-Baer, Stage Manager

Colleen Kesterson, Costume Consultant

GEORGINA ESCOBAR is a queer Mexican playwright and maker of sci-femme narratives, ultra-humanistic mythos, and frontera-funk stories. She works textually and visually with plasticity, the impossible, and the Latin American perspective. Residencies include MacDowell, Djerassi, Fornés Workshop, and she is the recipient of the Darrell Ayers Playwriting and Outstanding Service to Women on the Border national awards. Her work has been featured in the Kilroy's List, 50PP, and The Mix, and on print in The Texas Review, Lxs Bárbarxs, McSweeney's, and New Passport Press. Her work appears in "Scenes for Latinx Actors,"

“Lighting The Way”, and “El Fuego: Fueling the American Theatre with Latinx Plays” (upcoming). Her plays have been seen across the USA, México, Denmark, and Sweden. Artistic homes and presenters include INTAR, New York Children’s Theatre, Dixon Place, Clubbed Thumb, Lincoln Center, Bushwick Starr, Two Rivers, Milagro, Aurora Theatre, and the University of Texas at El Paso. www.georginaescobar.com

ANDREA MORALES is thrilled to be a part of *Plein Air Plays* and is humbled to be doing live theatre again! Recent theatre credits include *Buried Child* and *The Three Musketeers* with the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, *The Anatomy of Love* with Pioneer Theatre Company and *Alma* at the Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center. Recent television work includes *Prodigal Son*, *The Blacklist* and *Bull*. Many thanks to Jeff and Paul for this beautiful experience. All my love to Mikey, the most supportive partner.

AARON J. STEWART is a recent SUNY Purchase BFA Graduate actor from Highland, New York. His credits include: *Blood Wedding* (The Moon), *A Bright Room Called Day* (Traum/Swetts), *The Possibilities* (Weaver Man/Ensemble), *The Colored Museum* (Guy/Miss Roj/Narrator/The Kid). He would like to thank all of his friends and family for supporting him, and his teachers and directors for helping him grow in his artistic process.

COLLEEN KESTERSON—NY Costume Design Credits: *Truest, Partners* (AADA), *Burial at Thebes* (Hofstra), *Pride and Prejudice* (NYMF, Winner – Outstanding Design), *Hapgood* (Phoenix Theatre Ensemble), *Unlock’d* (NYMF), *Pinkalicious* (Vital Theatre), *Full Bloom*, *Rebound* and *Gagged* (Vital Theatre). Regional: *Little Beasts*, *The Whipping Man* (Luna Stage, NJ). As Assistant Costume Designer: *Arcadia* (Broadway), *Rock of Ages* (Broadway, 1st National Tour), *Cyrano* (Broadway), *Souvenir* (Broadway). Proud member of USA 829.



BASEBALL IS DEAD

written & performed by Frank Boyd

FRANK BOYD is a NY based actor and writer. Original works include *The Holler Sessions* (Guthrie Theater and at AOH in 2017) and *Patti & The Kid* (On the Boards). In 2020 Frank performed in NYC and on tour with Half Straddle in *Is This A Room*. Frank has also performed with Elevator Repair Service in *Gatz* and *The Select*, with Young Jean Lee's Theater Company in *Straight White Men*, and with the TEAM in *Architecting*. TV: *Z Nation*. Film: *Thin Skin*. www.frank-boyd.com



POOF!

written & performed by Celeste Lecesne

CELESTE LECESNE is best known for his award-winning solo shows *One Man Band*, *Word of Mouth*, and *The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey*. The NYTimes has ranked him “among the most talented solo performers of his (or any) generation.” He wrote the short film *Trevor*, which won an Academy Award for Best Live Action Short and he is co-founder of *The Trevor Project*, the only nationwide Lifeline for LGBTQ youth. He has written three novels for young adults, and created *The Letter Q*, a collection of letters by queer writers written to their younger selves. Celeste is also the co-founder of *The Future Perfect*, a national arts initiative for LGBTQ+ youth. For more info visit www.celestelecesne.com

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(cont'd from **CELESTE LECESNE**)

MICHAEL KRASS (costume designer) designs for stage, film and opera. principally based in New York, he has earned four Tony nominations for work on Broadway (including *Hadestown*) and works equally Off Broadway and in regional theatres across the United States. He has premiered many new plays by American and British authors in the last thirty years of attempting to aid actors in their brave work. Internationally, his work has had premieres in London, Dublin, Seoul, at the Mariinsky in St. Petersburg, Russia, and has toured Siberia. He attempted to teach a generation of theatre people to hear and listen to their own voices, both at NYU and at Brown.

Special Thanks

V at Lotus Pond Farm - for everything.
Also thanks to Ryan Amador and Henry Koperski for writing
“The Wow Song.”

And to the fairies, elves and dykes at Timberlake Studios
(Sarah, Cathy, Jason, and) who made my
fairy costume come to life.

Extra special gratitude goes to Michael Krass for dreaming up
the costume design in the first place and for making fairy magic.



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**Special thanks to Suzan and Jonathan Flamm
and to the many volunteers who helped make this event possible!**



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 8, 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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