



Wallace Norman, Producing Artistic Director

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## **woodstock fringe** Announces 2006 Summer Season Festival of Theatre & Song

Woodstock, NY... With three acclaimed seasons under its belt, Woodstock Fringe proudly announces its fourth season, a month-long **Festival of Theatre & Song!** 35 performances of 10 extraordinary theatre and music events will be offered. Beginning **August 4** and running through **September 3**, the season starts to sizzle with a double-bill of songwriting duos, **Flames of Discontent** and **Mancini and Martin** and soon after bursts into flames with **Women On Fire**, a play by Irene O'Garden, **Incognito**, a critically acclaimed one-man play written and performed by Chicago-based **Michael Fosberg**. Back by popular demand are the **Tiny Ninja Theatre** with the Bard's greatest play, **Hamlet**. Shock of Gray Productions, an ensemble of five women, will perform their provocative **Smoke and Mirrors**. Rounding out this richly varied season are the **Science Friction Orchestra** and the **world premiere** of **Unheard Of! A Musical Revue**. In addition, there will be a series of staged readings called **First Looks at the Fringe**.

Producing Artistic Director, Wallace Norman, says: "The talent, professionalism, dedication and creativity of the artists participating in this year's festival takes my breath away. Woodstock Fringe has become an important creative home, a haven for writers, directors and performing artists of the first order. We are professional artists who have spent our lives in the pursuit of excellence. The festival we started has had a huge ripple effect—the word is spreading. We have just been honored with a **matching grant** from the **Virgil Thomson Foundation** for \$22,000 to create and present a workshop production of a new play with music based on the life of Virgil Thomson. Woodstock and the Hudson Valley has opened its arms to the Fringe, and we are happy to have found our home here at the beautiful historic **Byrdcliffe Theatre**."

The Festival:

**The Flames of Discontent** and **Mancini and Martin**, a double bill of innovative

songwriting/performing duos: **The Flames of Discontent** are **John Pietaro** (voice and electrified 5-string banjo) and **Laurie Towers** (electric bass guitar) who will perform music that reinvigorates the protest song. Their work includes new and daring arrangements of celebrated composers, original music, pieces of spoken word and free improvisations. **Mancini and Martin** are Master Jazz Saxophonist "The Sultan of Sonic Soul" **Gus Mancini** and the Fabulous **Patti "Sweet P" Martin** – two of Woodstock's finest performing artists who will present **IN the Moment** – an aural tapestry of avant-garde compositions. Two performances.

**Women On Fire** a play by Irene O' Garden. Trude is a world-famous photojournalist who returns from her latest assignment to discover that her studio has burned down and with it her life's work and art collection. All is lost except for the last few rolls of film she shot. Her assignment has been to create portraits of contemporary American women from all walks of life, from ad executive to mid-west mom to caregiver to construction worker, each character on fire with passion, fear, self-discovery, and even shopping! Twelve lyrical, funny and passionate portraits come to life in this beautifully-written play, perfectly suiting our gifted cast of **Noni Connor, Asta Hansen, and Nicola Sheara**. **Women On Fire** began its life in the Hudson Valley as a series of performance

poems by the author. *The New York Times* describes this play as “**Bewitching... astounding... heartbreaking.**” Directed by Wallace Norman. Eight performances.

**Tiny Ninja Theatre presents Hamlet.** Back by popular demand, multiple award winning genius **Dov Weinstein** returns with his acting troupe of dime store figurines. Miniature video cameras and projections are used in this extraordinary multi-media production of Shakespeare's greatest play. Tiny Ninja Theatre Company was based on the premise that “there are no small parts, only small actors.” The Royal Shakespeare Company plans to produce all the Bard's works in the next year, and Tiny Ninja Theatre will be part of the project, following hard upon this year's performances in Woodstock. Four performances.

**Incognito**, a play written and performed by Michael Fosberg. An autobiographical journey to find a biological father, and consequently his discovery of self. It is a show about race, identity and family history. Unfolding as a mystery, the play allows audiences to make their own discoveries, about themselves and their perceptions of identity, race and stereotypes. It is a tour-de-force ‘memoir’ that has played to standing ovations. Six performances.

**Smoke and Mirrors** performed by Shock of Gray Productions. Five multi-talented women developed this theatrical collage exploring “queer” identity over a period of three years. Using elements of word, music, song, and movement to share and celebrate their experiences as lesbians over the past five decades, this play is provocative, political and entertaining. Five performances.

**Science Friction Orchestra.** Four master musicians, **Marc Black, Michael Esposito, Eric Parker and Geoff Parker** will combine forces in an extraordinary theatrical/musical event. The audience will be viewing some seriously greasy science fiction films from the 50's and 60's while the band samples their sound on the fly and improvises on that sample while the audience continues watching the film. It's what happens after the song fades out and no one gets to hear it. Till now... Science Friction is what's left when everything else is gone. Two performances.

**American SongFest** presents **Unheard Of!, A Musical Revue.** A favorite performer of the Fringe, **Watson Heintz**, returns in a cabaret of original songs by New York and Chicago composers and songs from the American Theatre. Heintz is reunited with collaborator/director, **Matt Hussong**, with Musical Director, **Jared Dembowski**, at the piano. This is a world premier performance! 5 performances.

**First Looks at the Fringe.** In addition to our fully-produced events, Woodstock Fringe will present three programs of readings of new works in development. All four playwrights represented in this year's First Looks are members of the Woodstock Fringe Playwrights Unit. The Woodstock Fringe is host to two playwrights-in-residence, **David Nugent** and **Charles Traeger**. In addition to hearing readings of their new full-length plays, we will hear a program of short plays by Jerry McGee and Michael Ramirez. .

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All performances are at the Byrdcliffe Theatre, Upper Byrdcliffe Road, Woodstock, NY. Tickets for individual performances are \$20 general admission, \$17 for students and seniors. A **FRINGE PASS**, offering admission to all Festival events is available for \$50, an incredible value! The staged readings in our First Looks at the FRINGE series are free-of-charge. For additional information, calendar and tickets to this year's Festival, please visit us online at [www.woodstockfringe.org](http://www.woodstockfringe.org), or call the box office at **845-810-0123**.

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