



Wallace Norman, Producing Artistic Director

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woodstock fringe
CELEBRATES 5TH SEASON
ANNOUNCES 2007 FESTIVAL OF THEATRE & SONG

Woodstock, NY... With four acclaimed seasons under its belt, Woodstock Fringe proudly announces its 5th season, a month-long **Festival of Theatre & Song!** To commence our fifth year, Woodstock Fringe is hosting a **season kick-off** and **fundraiser** on **August 5** with an encore performance of Michael Sidney Fosberg's ***Incognito***, a tour-de-force memoir that brought last year's audiences to their feet and moved many to tears. 31 performances of 8 extraordinary theatre and music events will be offered. The **Festival of Theatre & Song** begins **August 9** and runs through **September 2**. The season ignites with a world premier of **Backwards** written by **Alice Austen** and directed by the talented **Nicola Sheara** and soon after catches fire with **The Princes Of Serendip**, a musical three-some who perform the song-poetry written by **T.G. Vanini**, and never play the same set twice, **Almost Obscene**, written and performed by **Joe Raiola**, Senior Editor from **MAD Magazine**, who is critically acclaimed for his sharp edged comedy. Making a pit-stop on their way to Off-Broadway is **Greetings From Yorkville**, a two-person musical performed by **Anya Turner** and **Robert Grusecki**. Solo-Storyteller **Debra Ehrhardt** performs her true-life story in **Jamaica Farewell**, convincing audiences they have just seen a play with a full cast! Rounding out this richly varied season is a workshop production of **Oh Virgil! A Theatrical Portrait**, written by **Wallace Norman** in collaboration with **Larry Alan Smith**. 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. 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:

5th Season Kick-off and Fundraiser. ***Incognito***, by Michael Fosberg was a hit in last year's Festival. Michael's *tour-de-force* performance in his one-man play, brought audiences to their feet and moved many to tears. Michael's personal journey to find his biological father and consequently the discovery of a self he never knew is a story 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. **"One of the Top Theatrical Events of the Season ...Incognito is an engrossing and deeply moving trip...if you listen carefully it will shake you to your own roots"**. Chicago Tribune.

Backwards. **World Premiere** of a new play by Alice Austen. What if everything you do is the result of an event that hasn't yet occurred? What if the words past and future, then and now, before and after have no real meaning? What if the only way to find the person you love is to take a ninety minute train ride...backwards? In this play, four people converge on a train: a physicist, his estranged

wife, a novelist and a woman so afraid to go anywhere that she brings her life along with her in a canvas bag. Opening in the aftermath of a tragic event, the story traces how the destinies of these four characters become linked. In the process, the physicist and his wife come full circle to discover how science has become a metaphor for their lives and a reason to believe in reconciliation. Directed by **Nicola Sheara** with a quartet of gifted actors: **Noni Connor, Vicky Devany, Michael Fosberg and Steve Jones**. Eight performances.

Princes of Serendip. "Sophisticated troubadours" ~ Area favorite musicians, The Princes of Serendip perform the song-poetry of **T.G. Vanini**, whose dense, unexpected imagery and haunting harmonies engage the listener in an intense exploration of a wide range of feelings in a world of enchantment and whimsy. The Princes have a large repertoire of original songs suitable for all ages and never play the same set twice. Two performances.

Almost Obscene. MAD Magazine Senior Editor and WDST radio personality **Joe Raiola** wages war on the status quo with his critically acclaimed evening of provocative, sharp-edged comedy. The show has been called "a satiric rant against censorship, 'decency,' George Bush and God Himself, not necessarily in that order. . . an incendiary combination of standup and performance art," Boston Magazine. "...a ruefully amusing lament for the ineradicable hypocrisy of humanity...his honesty is admirable if not uplifting," *The New York Times*. "...in the tradition of George Carlin...hilarious and thought-provoking," NYTheatre.com. Three performances.

Greetings From Yorkville. On their way to opening Off-Broadway in New York City in the fall of 2007, Anya Turner and Robert Grusecki return to the Fringe with their gorgeous musical. Premiered at Woodstock Fringe in 2004, Greetings From Yorkville has had productions at the 78th Street Playhouse and the York Theatre. "**Poignant... Sexy... Humorous... Gorgeous... Moving. Based primary on their lives, the song writing team's lyrics and dialogue are as good as their delightful melodies and rhythms. The show left us with the inspiring image of two talented creative artists joining forces to make their way in show business and appreciating their lives, even with the going gets rough.**" – The Woodstock Times. "**An Evening of crisp, crackling precision... Shimmering... Expressive... Powerful... New songs that give a contemporary touch to a continuing tradition.**" – The New York Times. Five performances.

Jamaica Farewell. An uproarious tour-de-force, Debra Ehrhardt is a captivating solo story-teller who by the end of each performance has convinced the audience they have just seen a play with a full cast! Set against the political upheaval in Jamaica in the '70s, it is based on Ehrhardt's true life story -- an unforgettable journey of escaping poverty, revolution, prison time, rape and death in the island paradise brought to the brink of ruin by violent revolution. With the odds stacked against her, she pulls off a daring caper with the unwitting help of a CIA agent in order to fulfill her lifelong dream of starting over in America . It is a story that will haunt you, one that will both inspire and entertain you. "**A terrific story with wit and panache...suspenseful enough for a thriller and deliciously funny,**" LA Weekly. "**When a one-woman show makes you feel like you saw a fully-cast play, you know you've just witnessed a fabulous actor at work....an extremely talented performer...not to be missed,**" Buzzline Magazine. Seven performances

Oh Virgil! A Theatrical Portrait. Spend a day with **Virgil Thomson**—one of the most influential and controversial artists in the history of contemporary American music. From his bed at the Chelsea Hotel in New York City, Thomson ran the world of music as chief music critic for the Herald Tribune. Paving the way for his contemporaries who included **Aaron Copland, Igor Stravinsky, Mark Blitzstein, Ned Rorem** and **Leonard Bernstein**, among many others, Virgil Thomson, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for his score of the film Louisiana Story, is the father of American music. His

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collaborations with **Gertrude Stein** on two opera masterworks, *Four Saints In Three Acts* and *The Mother of Us All*, were the most celebrated events of their time. His collaborations with **John Houseman, Orson Wells** and **Frederick Ashton** are the stuff of legends. *Oh Virgil!* is a kaleidoscopic portrait of a man and a time when the world of modern art and music exploded. This production was made possible by the generous support of the Virgil Thomson Foundation. Four workshop performances.

First Looks at the Fringe. In addition to our fully-produced events, Woodstock Fringe will present two readings of new works in development. Both playwrights represented in this year's First Looks are members of the Woodstock Fringe Playwrights Unit. The Woodstock Fringe is will be presenting *NUTS AND BOLTS* by Charles R. Traeger and *A NECESSARY MADNESS* by Peter Coy.

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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 (with the exception of the Aug 5 benefit performance) is available for \$50, an incredible value! Tickets or our 5th Season Kick-Off and Fundraiser are \$75 and includes food, music, an encore performance of *INGOCNITO*, followed by champagne and dessert. The workshop production of *OH VIRGIL! A THEATRICAL PORTRAIT* is \$10 and 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, or call the box office at **845-810-0123**.

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