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OPERA HOUSE ARTS' FAMILY PROGRAMING INVITES AUDIENCES OF ALL AGES TO ENJOY SPECIAL FAMILY-FRIENDLY SHOWS – FOR LESS THAN THE PRICE OF A MOVIE!

Clowns, musicians, magicians and even our own local dancers make up this year's Live! for \$5 series.

[June 19, 2018: Stonington, ME] Wednesdays at the Opera House are for everyone! Now in its 16th year, the Live! For \$5 series has been delighting audiences of all ages with magic, music, dance and clowning since 2003. Underwritten by the W. F. Whitman Family Foundation in memory of Maia Aprahamian, Live! for \$5 performances are all 45 minutes long – and audiences can enjoy an evening at the theatre for less than a movie ticket.

This summer, the six-week series kicks off on **June 27** with **Sue's School of Dance**. Island dancers under the direction of Sue Senecal and assistant teacher Katie Haskell will perform choreographed dances from their spring recital "Dancing at the Country Fair." Seven different classes along with solos will be performing, jazz, lyrical, hip hop and ballet pieces. Located in Deer Isle Maine with an enrollment of 150 students, Sue's School of Dance provides children from Deer Isle, Stonington, and surrounding towns with solid technical training as well as an enjoyable and creative dance experience.

The fun continues on **July 11** with the raucous musical comedy of the **Half Moon Jug Band**, a three-man musical mob of desperadoes hijacking the plodding freight train of folk music, steaming it up the mountains of rock 'n roll, through the vaudeville pass, and down across the valley of country music before wrecking it in the middle of a rubber chicken farm on the outskirts of town. Their weapons of choice: guitars, banjos, mandolins, hefty bass riffs and rotund sing-along choruses. But they're no bluegrass band; they also wield mighty kazoos, trumpets, harmonicas and thumping drums.

On **July 25**, audience favorite **Norman Ng Magic Experience** returns. The show is an exciting fusion of magic, comedy, and audience participation! It features never before seen magic, laugh out loud comedic situations and the best part – it stars you, the audience! Norman combines original and amazing magic tricks with his unique style of story telling, action, and audience interaction. The curtain is pulled back and the audience is invited to a world where anything is possible. You Will Scream, Laugh and FREAK OUT!

On **August 1**, **I Spy Butterfly** combines live music, puppetry and a wonderful sense of play in this delightful eco-story about the ways we all grow and change! When Trudy's caterpillar friend Harold suddenly transforms into a chrysalis, she's determined to do the same. She quickly learns that change will take more than her craft bag and a peanut butter and honey sandwich. Live music, colorful critters, and oodles of audience interaction make this show a fun romp in the wild!

On **August 8**, veteran of Cirque du Soleil Steven Ragatz's **Under the Umbrella, Life is a Circus** follows an understated dapper gentleman through his surreal day. Ragatz has enchanted audiences with his juggling, physical comedy, circus arts and general antics for the past three decades.

The series concludes on August 22 with **Pinot & Augustine**, a sure-fire 45-minute, bilingual, crowd-pleaser featuring a classic, family-friendly clown duo inspired by the golden age of Circus. Pinot is the authoritarian clown in fancy clothes and white cone hat. Augustine is the appealing red-nosed bumbler who punctures his pomposity. Their show bubbles over with physical comedy, virtuosity and musical surprises from the sublime to the ridiculous: from lyrical melodies on a musical saw to pratfalls and a whoopee cushion.

When You Go

Tickets for Live for \$5 performances are just \$5, and can be purchased at the Stonington Opera House box office in person only, 1 hour before each performance begins. These performances often sell out, so audiences are encouraged to come early – and can even plan to enjoy a delicious pre-show snack, including home-made flatbread pizzas, local baked goodies and even ice cream in the Opera House's lobby café.

FULL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Live for \$5! Performance Schedule

Wednesday, June 27, 2018	Sue's School of Dance
Wednesday, July 11, 2018	Half Moon Jug Band
Wednesday, July 25, 2018	The Norman Ng Magic Experience
Wednesday, August 1, 2018	I Spy, Butterfly
Wednesday, August 8, 2018	Under the Umbrella, Life is a Circus
Wednesday, August 22, 2018	Pinot & Augustine

About Opera House Arts

Opera House Arts, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was originally established to restore the historic Stonington Opera House, on the National Register of Historic Places, to its original role as a center for performance and a community gathering space. Now in its 18th year, OHA produces live theatre, music and dance in both the Stonington Opera House, and on our second stage, the restored Burnt Cove Church Community Center.

Opera House Arts' high quality, original, professional performance programs serve all of Hancock County's winter and summer residents and visitors, of all ages, with special emphasis on the residents and students of Deer Isle and the Blue Hill Peninsula. We offer a full year-round schedule of professional theatre, film, educational programs, digital media, concerts, and community events.

OHA is an unique organization. Many of our audiences know us as a professional theatre presenting plays, concerts and family programming in the summer – and indeed we are that, but we are also so much more. As soon as the calendar turns the page from August to September, we dive back into the other half of our identity: as a civic gathering space rooted in the belief that access to and participation in the arts can change lives.

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Photos and Captions:

Musician Max Weigert with Puppeteer Faye Dupras...jpg: Combining live music, puppetry and a wonderful sense of play, "I Spy Butterfly" comes to the Opera House stage on August 1st. Photo courtesy of Opera House Arts.

HalfMoonJugBand-1.jpg: The three-man, raucous musical comedy Half Moon Jug Band plays at the Opera House on July 11th. Photo courtesy of Opera House Arts.

Ragatz.jpg: Steven Ragatz's "Under the Umbrella, Life is a Circus" brings juggling, physical comedy, and circus arts to the Opera House stage on August 8th. Photo courtesy of Opera House Arts.