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## **Cider Mill Playhouse Announces 40<sup>th</sup> Season Main Stage Shows**

(Endicott, NY) Although three shows remain in its current season, Cider Mill Playhouse prepares for a year-long celebration of their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year by announcing the main stage shows for its 2015-16 season. “We’ve made important gains this year and have a strong vision for what can be accomplished in the years to come,” states Executive and Artistic Director Gail King Belokur. “Much thanks is owed to our faithful patrons – old and new – for helping us enjoy record-breaking audiences this year. We feel certain next season celebrates with some of the most popular, entertaining shows being produced by professional theatre companies today.”

CMP’s season begins in style next September with the spy-thriller *The 39 Steps*, which is a stage adaptation based on the Alfred Hitchcock film. Winning the 2008 Tony for Best Play, *The 39 Steps* is a fast-paced whodunit comedy thriller in which four talented actors portray over 150 characters in a magical piece of theatre.

Next, CMP will honor 40 years with a production of the Kaufman and Hart classic play *You Can’t Take it With You*. Recently enjoying a Broadway revival, this popular play celebrates the quirkiness of family and explores the agonizing moments when idealized young love and the realities of family dynamics intersect.

The advent of 2016 brings the first musical of the season, *The Fantasticks*, running for three weeks but also adding an opportunity to catch a matinee on both Saturdays and Sundays. Boasting the record for longest-running musical in the world, this timeless romantic musical about a boy, a girl, and their two fathers who try to keep them apart appeals to audiences of all ages. The nostalgic show includes many catchy, memorable songs including “Try to Remember,” and “Soon It’s Gonna Rain.”

March celebrates with one of the most lauded and beloved Broadway plays of recent years, the newest Christopher Durang play and 2013 Tony winner *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Vanya and his adopted sister Sonia live a quiet life in the Pennsylvania farmhouse where they grew up, but their peace is disturbed with their movie star sister Masha and her 20-something boyfriend Spike arrive. Unannounced. A weekend of rivalry, regret and raucousness ensues.

Rounding out the plays for the year is *Red*, which provides insight into the work of master abstract expressionist painter Mark Rothko. Covering a period of two years, we watch as the artist and his assistant work in his studio and challenge one another in fascinating ways. The play is credited with helping an audience experience the thrill of creating art and provides a new appreciation for the place art holds in our lives.

Finally, the “big June musical,” as it is often referred to at Cider Mill Playhouse, will be the hilariously funny and touchingly honest *Urinetown*. A political satire about corporate mismanagement, social responsibility, municipal politics and musical theatre itself, this family-friendly musical will have you falling in love with the characters, the jokes, the story and the songs – despite the rather unusual title. Praised for reinvigorating the very notion of what a musical could be, this witty show promises tons of laughter.

Cider Mill Playhouse produces its work locally, enjoys a Guest Artist Tier II contract with Actors’ Equity Association and engages professional artistic and production personnel. “We are committed to strengthening the local economy by hiring and buying local whenever we can, and continuing to enrich our area through the theatre arts while engaging our citizens, artists, and businesses as well as attracting talent and tourists to the area,” states Belokur. “In observation of our 40<sup>th</sup> year, we have set a goal of securing \$40,000 in individual donations and commit those funds, specifically, to support the work of local artists and local businesses who partner with us.”

While returning subscribers will be receiving information by mail, anyone can contact CMP to be put on a mailing list to receive subscription and single ticket information. Tickets and information for all Cider Mill Playhouse shows are available online or at the box office. CALL 607-748-7363, VISIT 2 S. Nanticoke Ave, Endicott, or CLICK [www.cidermillplayhouse.org](http://www.cidermillplayhouse.org). This 254-seat, cabaret-style playhouse is honored to receive season support from the New York State Council on the Arts and the Broome County Arts Council.

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