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"Magic and Improv" Intensive at Playhouse Accepting Students

(Endicott, NY) Teens who wish to challenge themselves in the world of professional theatre training have an opportunity to register for their upcoming "Magic and Improv," being held Monday through Friday, August 8 – 12 from 10am – 4pm. The students will have the opportunity to join local magician, and workshop clinician, David Black on stage in the "Magic and Music" evening planned for Saturday, August 13 at 7pm. All students participating will automatically receive audition invitations for upcoming shows that have roles for their age group.

The workshop will be broken up into two segments, with the mornings focusing on "magic." With personal instruction by professional magician David Black, learn how to construct and perform some of the great "tricks of the trade." Highlights of the program include card tricks, sleight of hand, coin magic, rope tricks and mentalism. Participants will also be introduced to some of the associated variety arts such as juggling and balloon sculpture.

The afternoons focus on improvisational theatre games, which not only strengthen performance skills but enable students to learn to engage in ensemble work that will serve them off the stage as well. Clinicians will facilitate the students' process by offering techniques, movement exercises and other tools to free their intuitive creativity in a supportive environment. As a recent parent wrote of this aspect of the workshops at Cider Mill Playhouse, "Watching my daughter engage in exercises involving breathing, focusing, learning about creating a safe space, becoming aware of her important place if the effective functioning of the ensemble, establishing emotionally intimate connections with other teens, utilizing exercises that dissolve defenses to enable those connections to happen, learning and practicing effective listening skills (was) an extremely important experience – one that my daughter would carry with her and would impact all aspects of her life." extremely important experience – one that my daughter would carry with her and would impact all aspects of her life. "

Included in the workshop, CMP will offer the next session of its "Stage Crew 101" training. This session provides a basic understanding of the different artistic and production positions in professional theatre, backstage etiquette and baseline crisis management knowledge. Upon completion, participants will identify areas of interest and be considered to work backstage on future CMP productions as part of the "Fresh Cider Academy." The program allows those who continue on in this capacity to be paired with professional mentors as they expand their theatre production and employment skills, as well as attend performances.

Both the acting and stage crew aspects of the workshop will be taught to professional standards. "Our mission includes engaging the next generation of theatre makers, and the response to this workshop has been overwhelmingly positive," explains Belokur. "The students involved are learning not only theatre-specific skills from their professional mentors, but also key employment and life skills." Teaching this cycle of the workshop will be Binghamton native Josh Sedelmeyer, has regularly appeared on the CMP stage (*The 39 Steps, Into the Woods, Stage Kiss, Urinetown*), and is an Artistic Associate of the theatre company, having directed *Thoroughly Modern Millie* for the main stage and is a key figure at the helm of our "Fresh Cider" Series.

Registration for this workshop is limited to sixteen participants. (with a minimum of six required) for students entering grades 6 through 12. Up to four students in grades 6 – 8 have the option to take the magic portion of the workshop only (based on first requests). Anyone interested may register online via the website at www.cidermillplayhouse.thundertix.com by calling (607) 748-7363, Ext 7.

Cider Mill Playhouse operates under the Small Professional Theatre Level 5 Actors' Equity Association contract and is honored to receive season support from the New York State Council on the Arts and the United Cultural Fund as administered by the Broome County Arts Council.

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