



2016 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

We use the performing arts to foster and promote excellence in all the ways we perform our lives:

Incite Art, Create Community!

OHA brings professional artists into the daily life of our community, and community life to the work of professional artists.



FROM THE BOARD



You are holding in your hands the newly formatted Annual Report, which we warmly welcome. It reflects well the energy, talent and dedication that Meg

and the staff pour into their work. We are delighted that you joined us at some of these events during the past year and now look forward to seeing you at ongoing programs during the winter and spring. We expect even more to participate in our exciting summer line-up. We're even doing a musical!

Following the successful completion of our lobby and facility expansion, the exciting challenges of creatively and fully utilizing these new spaces will require continued community support. More than ever, your gifts make possible all the work that fills the Opera House and the community. Thank you for all past and future contributions.

Lastly, we can report that serving on the Board of the Opera House is one of the best volunteer jobs that many of us have ever had. We do it because we believe in it.

See you at the Opera House!

Mary Kay Ricks & Ray McCaskey
Co-Chairs, Opera House Arts Board of Directors

FROM THE DIRECTOR



In each curtain speech I give, it is my delight and privilege to welcome audiences to the Opera House on behalf of the Board, the staff, and all the artists in residence at Opera House Arts. If you were keeping count last year, that meant that my single body was standing in for over

200 artists, staff, board and community advisors and volunteers who make the work we do here possible.

OHA is a 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 contain transformational potential.

This report gives you a glimpse into the many programs of the Opera House – programs that are made possible through your support and belief in us.

So, next time I stand on the stage and thank you on behalf of all of us who make the work possible, know that you are one of those being thanked.

See you in the theatre.

Meg Taintor
Producing Artistic Director

OUR COMMUNITY

At the heart of all the work we do at Opera House Arts is a focus on our community.

In the summer, we program a diverse roster of theatre events, concerts, family programming and film for our year-round residents, our summer-long residents, and visitors who are on Deer Isle for only a brief visit.

Once the island quiets down in September, we kick off a whole new stream of community programming, with special family-friendly events and full-island partnerships.

COMMUNITY DAYS

Our Community Days are an example of the team at OHA responding to a need in the community and acting to fill it. In partnership with other island non-profits (most frequently with the **Island Nursing Home**, but also with the **Town of Stonington**, the **Chamber of Commerce**, **Healthy Island Project**, the **Island Community Center** and others) these days provide opportunities for young families to participate in family-friendly programming without breaking the bank. Each day typically falls around a theme or a holiday and involves activities that take place all over Stonington (a healthy fun run, or a trash clean-up), with special attention given to creating opportunities for kids of all ages and abilities to participate, and each culminates in a free screening of a kids' movie.

STAGED READING SERIES

The Staged Reading Series is one of the oldest programming streams here at OHA, but over the past two years we have been deepening the series to create an even richer impact in the community. Each reading, which features a cast of local actors with one professional guest performer, is followed by a community-curated conversation about the connections between the themes of the script to issues at the forefront of our community. We've explored dignity at the end of life, a community's responsibility to mentor and champion its youth, and the challenges of addiction in family and town life – all through conversations that sprung from the plays on the stage.



OUR COMMUNITY



LIVE IN THE LOBBY

The new lobby gave us new ways to celebrate our community, and one of the most successful was our regular “Live in the Lobby” Open Mic Night series. On eight evenings throughout the year, we filled the lobby with home-grown musical talent.



Each Open Mic Night is hosted by a different featured artist, including **Archipelago**, **Isle of Jazz**, **Geoff Warner**, **Abby Litman**, **Sarah Ehrlich** and **Oceana Castaneda**. People come to sing and play – or just to watch, settling down at one of our café tables with a flatbread and a glass of wine and enjoying the previously unknown talents of neighbors and friends.

GOING FOR THE GOLD: STORIES OF MARINER BASKETBALL



The Community Advisory Board of Opera House Arts threw open the doors to the theatre for an evening celebrating the rich heritage of basketball on our island.

Players and coaches, past and present, gathered to talk about what it takes to get to the championship game, and shared the excitement of playing on the auditorium floor. The evening featured film clips from some of the more successful teams over the last 30 years, including the girls’ State Championship team of 1987, the boys’ Eastern Maine Championship teams of 1989 and 1997, and the boys’ State Championship team of 2007.



THEATRE SEASON

Summer 2016 saw an expansion of our theatre season, with four productions running from mid June through the start of September. These four shows brought thirty-seven theatre artists (actors, directors, designers and musicians) to the island to create a series of plays that asked us how to evolve in times of crisis.



ORLANDO

"Orlando, the opening production of the Opera House Arts 2016 season, [is] helpful to our battered souls. ... the play just keeps getting more wonderful."

Ellen Booraem, Ellsworth American

AN ILIAD

"Opera House Arts' production of An Iliad is a triumph for Boston-based actress Marianna Bassham and musician Anthony Colin Leva, whose use of the upright bass to score the play and create sound effects is amazing and effective.... Director Meg Taintor creates a town square atmosphere that works perfectly."

Judy Harrison, Bangor Daily News

JULIUS CAESAR

"With Julius Caesar, Opera House Arts again sends theatergoers home asking questions not just about society but about how susceptible they are to mob rhetoric."

Judy Harrison, Bangor Daily News

MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY

*"One of the most intellectually challenging, inherently powerful shows that we've seen in quite some time around these parts. ... It is smart and funny and thought-provoking. In short, [Mr. Burns, a post-electric play] is *steeple fingers* excellent."*

Allen Adams, The Maine Edge

THEATRE SEASON

BY THE NUMBERS:

ORLANDO

By Sarah Ruhl
(adapted from Virginia Woolf)
Directed by Natalya Baldyga

June 23 - July 10
12 performances
Total attendance: 606

AN ILIAD

By Lisa Peterson
and Denis O'Hare
Directed by Meg Taintor

July 14 - 23
8 performances
Total attendance 448

JULIUS CAESAR

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Peter Richards

July 29 - August 7
8 performances
Total Attendance: 695

MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY

by Anne Washburn
Score by Michael Friedman,
Lyrics by Anne Washburn,
Directed by Sarah Gazdowicz
and Meg Taintor

August 26 - September 4
7 performances
Total attendance: 463

LIVE! FOR \$5



*Sponsored by the W. F. Whitman Family Foundation
in Memory of Maia Aprahamian.*

One of Opera House Arts oldest and most treasured programs, Live! for \$5 makes it possible for audiences of all ages to enjoy six performances for less than the price of a movie ticket.

On Wednesdays throughout the summer, audiences gathered to enjoy performances of clowns and acrobats (**SNAFU!** and **The Tardy Brothers**), dancers (**Droplet Dance**), storytellers (**Antonia Rocha**), wonderful musicians (**Ten Strings and a Goatskin**), and more. And all for just \$5 per ticket!

LIVE! FOR \$5 BY THE NUMBERS:

Total attendance: 829

MUSIC AT THE OPERA HOUSE



This was a musical year at the Opera House! In addition to our regular Live in the Lobby Open Mic Nights (and a series of Karaoke in the lobby as well), we hosted concerts on our stage, as well as in the beautiful Burnt Cove Church Community Center.

WINTERFEST DANCE

We started the year by welcoming over 20 musicians from the **Church of the Morning After** to our stage for the WinterFest Dance. And what did it matter that we had eight inches of snow fall that day? Dozens of hearty islanders turned out to dance the night away!

BURNT COVE CHURCH CONCERTS

From the raucous and wonderful Irish trad music of **Boghat** to the pure gorgeous refinement of **Ralitza Patcheva & Vasily Popov** and the **DaPonte String Quartet**, Burnt Cove Church played host to a wide variety of artists this summer. In five wonderful concerts, we explored music from a range of styles, with emphasis on groups who explore the edges of multiple traditions: husband and wife team **Duo YUMENO** explored the fusion of Japanese and western traditions, while Boston-based **cordis** ensemble “hacked” the classical canon.

16TH ANNUAL DEER ISLE JAZZ FESTIVAL

Sixteen years and going strong! The 2016 Jazz Festival, curated as always by award-winning music critic and journalist Larry Blumenfeld, brought Cuban-born MacArthur Genius **Dafnis Prieto** and his **Si O Si Quartet** along with **René Marie** and her **Experiment in Truth Trio** as headliners. Local artists shared the stage with these internationally-acclaimed stars, with the much-beloved George Stevens Academy **High Five Jazz Combo** and **Tom Porter and Friends** kicking off each evening’s events.

AND MORE MUSIC!

The summer season was bookended by two stand-alone concerts, one welcoming a Sufi poet to our stage, and the other celebrating one of our beloved former neighbors. We started the summer with **Amir Vahab**, a world-renowned composer and vocalist of Sufi music for an evening of music and dancing. In August, **The Don Campbell Band** performed an evening of Dan Fogelberg’s music.

MUSIC BY THE NUMBERS:

Individual Concerts: 9
Tickets Sold: 855

MOVIES

FIRST RUN

Opera House Arts remains committed to serving the populations of Deer Isle, Stonington and the Blue Hill peninsula as a first run movie theatre, offering new movies, independent films and documentaries year round.

FIRST RUN FILMS BY THE NUMBERS

Adult Tickets: 3921

Under 17: 523

Total Income: \$34,592



ALT MOVIES

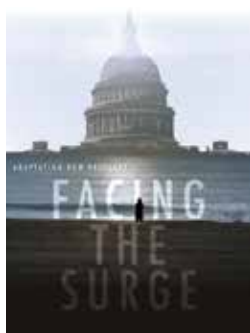
The Alt Movie subscription series makes it possible for OHA to present independent films, foreign films and documentaries that would not normally garner a large enough audience to be sustainable. With the support of Alt Movie subscribers – over 70 last year – we are able to offer regular explorations that go beyond blockbusters and enrich and enliven the life of our community.

ALT MOVIES BY THE NUMBERS:

Adult Tickets: 321

Under 17: 5

Total Income: \$2,728



SPECIAL SCREENINGS

OHA is proud to partner with local organizations and non-profits to offer special screenings of films that are important to our community and tap into conversations already in progress. This year, we were happy to partner with other leading island organizations for the following two special screenings.



THE HUNGRY HEART

provides an intimate look at the often hidden world of prescription drug addiction through the world of Vermont Pediatrician Fred Holmes who works with patients struggling with this disease.

Co-hosted by Healthy Island Project, Hancock Country Drug Free Communities, Healthy Acadia and Opera House Arts



A CLIMATE OF CHANGE, a documentary project of the Island Institute, examines the effects on the fishing industry associated with climate change, including warming waters, lack of biodiversity, and ocean acidification. The screening was followed by a community conversation about the film.

Screening in partnership with Island Institute & Penobscot East Resource Center

EDUCATION

Since 2007, Opera House Arts and the Deer Isle-Stonington Elementary and High Schools have participated in the Kennedy Center Partners in Education Program, a highly structured, arts education partnership that leverages the artistic strengths of the Deer Isle-Stonington community to support our students.

In the 2015-2016 school year, the partnership created opportunities for all the students in both schools. We led monthly workshops for elementary school students that culminated in a full-school performance, as well as special in-class workshops. High school students participated in two day-long symposia hosted at the Opera House based on books that were part of their curriculum (*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien and Ruth Moore's *The Weir*), as well as week-long Shakespeare workshops.

The partnership has grown and expanded as we move into the current school year. Currently in the works are a week-long arts-integrated learning project for the high school, a poetry declamation contest that spans four elementary schools (on and off-island), and three multi-week curricular performance units co-created by OHA and DISES team members.

INTERNSHIPS

Every summer, OHA welcomes teens into our structured, immersive internship programs. OHA internships are tailored to provide hands-on learning opportunities in a variety of roles throughout our summer season: interns study acting, directing, design, marketing and production, in addition to working on all aspects of our summer season.

Our 2016 summer program encompassed 11 teens from across the state of Maine and beyond. They built sets, acted on our stages, designed props, and created press releases and marketing videos. In a new addition to our program, interns all participated in a series of workshops with Deer Isle artists designed to explore the creative process on a broader level.



HARBOR RESIDENCIES

Two of the most requested resources in the development of new theatrical work are space in which to work, and time to focus. OHA's new Harbor Residency program welcomed 15 artists working on six different projects to Stonington.

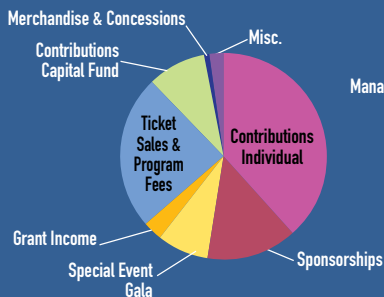
All Harbor Residents were given housing and shared access to the Opera House for residencies lasting between five days and three weeks. In exchange, artists participated in the education and outreach work of the Opera House, leading workshops in island and peninsula schools, and inviting our community in for free showings of their work in process.



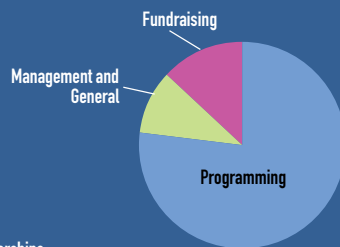
FINANCIALS

For most theatre arts organizations, ticket sales provide a relatively small contribution to the costs of operation. Ticket sales at the Opera House in 2016 were 24% of our total revenue. Because we minimize funds used for management and fundraising, 77% percent of our expenses go to the costs of our programs. Each dollar of contribution income is crucial to fill the gap between program costs and revenue from operations.

Support and Revenue



Expenses



The financial statements for Opera House Arts have been fully audited by Cheryl L. Boulet, CPA, Blue Hill, ME. This audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the U.S. The statement below is based upon the audited financial statements.

OHA ANNUAL REPORT STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2016

Support and Revenue	Total	%
Support:		
Contributions, Individual:	\$274,600	(38%)
Sponsorships:	\$107,500	(14%)
Contributions, Capital Fund:	\$60,000	(8%)
Grant Income:	\$22,300	(3%)

Revenue:		
Ticket Sales & Program Fees:	\$175,965	(24%)
Special Event / Gala:	\$68,420	(9%)
Merchandise & Concessions (net of cost of goods sold):	\$7,198	(>1%)
Miscellaneous:	\$13,136	(2%)
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$729,119	

Expenses	Total	%
Cost of Programming:	\$659,468	(77%)
Management and General:	\$85,582	(10%)
Fundraising:	\$112,620	(13%)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$857,670	



Opera House Arts (OHA) is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization for which charitable donations make up more than 60% of the operating budget. All donations support year round programs for our communities, and are tax deductible to the fullest extent provided by law. Interested in donating? Here are some of the places you can make a difference:

- Annual Fund for General Operating
- Have a Seat Campaign for Historic Theatre Maintenance
- The Second Century Society
- The Endowment Fund
- Shop and choose Opera House Arts as your nonprofit!

For more information on ways to give, or to request a meeting to discuss donor options in greater detail, please contact:

Amy Kyzer
Director of Engagement & Development
 development@operahousearts.org
 207-367-2788
www.operahousearts.org/donate

2015-16 DONORS

OHA wishes to thank its many friends for supporting our 2015-16 fiscal year efforts. Names included in this report are for those who made donations during the period November 1, 2015-October 31, 2016. If we have accidentally omitted your name please let us know so we can include it in our next mailing!

Capital Campaign

Donations helping to preserve and expand our historic building

Capital Campaign Lead Gifts

Anonymous Ray & Judy McCaskey Joan & Paul Sorensen

Capital Campaign Gifts

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The Second Century Society

Special thanks to the founding donors who have included OHA in their estate planning. Ask us how to sign up today!

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	INTERNSHIPS Peggy Shaffer & Ben Jacks

Founder's Society

Donations of \$15,000 and above to our Annual Fund

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The Next 10 Society

Donations of \$10,000 to \$14,999 to our Annual Fund

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1886 Opus Society

Donations of \$5,000 to \$9,999 to our Annual Fund

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Donations up to \$249 to our Annual Fund

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