

# ANCRAM OPERA HOUSE

Jeffrey Mousseau & Paul Ricciardi  
Directors

PRESENTS

# The Bengsons



Photo: Emilio Madrid

July 30, 2022

The Circa 1799 Barn, 105 Simons Rd., Ancramdale



ASL-interpreted



**Council on  
the Arts**

Ancram Opera House 2022 season made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

## Bios



**ABIGAIL AND SHAUN BENGSON** are a married composing and performing duo based in NYC and VT who have performed across the country and around the world. Their video for “*The Keep Going Song*” has been viewed over 4 million times. Three of their singles have been featured on *So You Think You Can Dance* (FOX). Their theater work includes *The Keep Going Song* (Actor’s Theatre of Louisville), *My Joy Is Heavy* (Arena Stage), *Hundred Days* (La Jolla Playhouse, New York Theatre Workshop, US Tour), *The Lucky Ones* (Ars Nova), *Where The Mountains Meet The Sea* (ATL’s Humana Festival), *Anything That Gives Off Light* (Edinburgh Theatre Festival), *You’ll Still Call Me By Name* (New York Live Arts, Jacob’s Pillow), and *Iphigenia In Aulis* (Classic Stage Company). They have received the Jonathan Larson and Richard Rogers Awards and nominations for the Drama Desk, Drama League, and Lucille Lortel Awards.

**CARTER BEERS** is a professional American Sign Language interpreter based in Poughkeepsie, NY. He currently provides interpreting services with Sorenson Communications in Manhattan. Theatre credits include *Trojan Women* (Powerhouse Theatre), *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* (National Technical Institute for the Deaf), and *I and You* (National Technical Institute for the Deaf). He holds a B.S in Psychology and ASL - English Interpreting from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology, as well as two A.S degrees in Human Services and Performing Arts from Dutchess Community College. He is thrilled to be returning to his hometown to provide access services in the local arts communities.



The Ancram Opera House presents a mix of contemporary theatre, alternative cabaret, storytelling and community programs. Located in a former grange hall in rural Columbia County, AOH offers a unique opportunity to directly engage, up close with visionary theatre artists at the top of their field, yet rarely seen in our region.

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***Special thanks to:***

Christy Frank, Cherie Schiffer and Jane Plasman

**Thank you to Mary Shimkin and Paul Spencer  
for offering up their beautiful barn for this evening's performance**



## **ABOUT ANCRAM OPERA HOUSE**

AOH offers an annual season of theatre, cabaret, literary, storytelling and community programs.

AOH's theatre productions include *An Iliad*, currently being remounted at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, MA; *The Plein Air Plays* featuring site-specific new work by Celeste Lecesne, Frank Boyd and Georgina Escobar; *Homebody* (Berkshire Theatre Critics Award for Outstanding Solo Performance); *We're Gonna Die*; *The Brother's Size* (Berkshire Theatre Critics nominations for Outstanding Ensemble and Outstanding Play); the American premiere of *In Praise of Elephants*, *Performing Olana*, an original site-specific piece staged at Olana; *Aunt Leaf*, also presented in Aguascalientes, Mexico and, most recently, reprised as part of Festival Universitario de Teatro, Baja California, Mexico; and the premiere of a new musical adaptation of *The Snow Queen*.

As an incubator of new performance, AOH hosts *Summer Play Lab* which supports the creation of innovative productions by theatre-makers including Heather Christian and the creative team of Tidtaya Sinutoke, Isabella Dawis and Nana Dakin and presents early editions of new, alternative cabaret performances with acclaimed artists such as Taylor Mac in *Holiday Sauce* which went on to NYC's Town Hall and San Francisco's Curran Theater, Diana Oh who was subsequently produced at The Bushwick Starr in Brooklyn, and Stew and longtime collaborator Heidi Rodewald in *Staged Dives* which was then performed at Joe's Pub in NYC.

*Crystal Radio Hour* features new short stories written by Hudson Valley and Tri-state regional writers, including Dave King, Jo Ann Beard, Wesley Brown, David Rabe and Courtney Maum, that are read by professional actors.

Community engagement is very much at the heart of AOH's programming. *Real People Real Stories* (RPRS), presented twice a year, features local residents sharing personal, authentic narratives. *Local Characters* showcases community members in fun, free-wheeling short form conversations. AOH leads storytelling workshops for young people at the Northeast Community Center and 4th, 5th and 6th graders at the Taconic Hills School. For adult learners, AOH also offers free writing and theatre-making workshops each year.

### **AOH MISSION**

Ancram Opera House creates meaningful encounters through the performing arts that forge connection. Through its productions, AOH offers a unique opportunity to directly experience, up close, visionary theatre artists at the top of their field yet seldom seen in the region. AOH's community-based arts and storytelling programs with local residents encourage day-to-day participation in the performing arts. AOH seeks to foster a sense of place for a rural region and contribute to a healthier and happier community.

**Next at AOH!**



**August 5<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>**

*Thurs/Fri/Sat at 8pm, Sun at 3pm*

**By Jonas Hassen Khemiri**

**Translated by Rachel Willson-Broyles**

This subversive satire confronts identity, race and language through a whirlwind of interconnected vignettes.



To help bring performances and educational programs to the region, we invite you to become a Friend of the Angram Opera House. We need the help of individuals like you who understand what it means to have an arts and culture space like this in Angram.

Friends of Angram Opera House will be thanked in printed programs, and also receive invitations to special Friends' events. Most importantly, by becoming a Friend of AOH, you join a very special group of individuals ensuring that our activities can benefit all in the area through a range of community arts programs.

Angram Opera House is a 501c3 nonprofit organization; contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law. All funds raised go directly to support annual programming costs. Thank you for whatever you can do!

**Yes, I'd like to become a friend of Angram Opera House!**

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**Mail to:** Angram Opera House, 1330 County Route 7, Angram, NY 12502

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