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PS/21 Kicks Off New Season with Free Performances of Arm-Of-The-Sea Theater's "Mutual Strangers: Henry Hudson and the River that Discovered Him"

[CHATHAM, NY] - PS/21: Performance Spaces for the 21st Century kicks off its 2009 season Saturday June 13 with two spectacular performances by Arm-of-the-Sea Theater celebrating the Hudson River's Quadricentennial.

"Mutual Strangers: Henry Hudson and the River that Discovered Him" is a fictional drama inspired by the events surrounding Hudson's 1609 voyage. Told through a combination of stunning visuals and great live music, this touring puppet and mask show tells the story from several vantage points, the views of the people living on the shores as well as the views of the European explorers.

"We'll be doing an abridged version of the show (about 40 minutes) at 2:00 in the afternoon for youngsters (ages 5-9) and then the full 70 minute show at 8:00 in the evening for older kids and adults," said founder Patrick Wadden. "Thanks to a generous grant from Hudson River Bank and Trust Foundation, tickets for both performances are free of charge."

In September of 1609, a small ship was sent from Europe to find a northern route to the Orient. This ship sailed 150 miles up a river on the North American continent. The events that transpired on that voyage, the encounters of European sailors and indigenous people, and the information brought back to the Dutch East India Company foreshadowed the collision of cultures that shaped the new nation.

"The story is drawn from first mate Robert Juet's logbook and from oral traditions of Lenape and Mohican peoples but it is, nevertheless, a work of the imagination," said Wadden. "On the 400th anniversary of Hudson's voyage, it is good to remember that human societies had been inhabiting and shaping this north-eastern landscape for at least 10,000 years. And that every First Encounter between strangers has many points of view."

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“Mutual Strangers” was written and directed by Patrick Wadden. Visuals by Artistic Director Marlana Marallo. Live music composed and performed by Dean Jones and Dennis Yerry. Lyrics by Dean Jones and Patrick Wadden. Manitowauk Performers: Carl Welden, Lily McNamara, and Steve Thomas.

“Great performances need great audiences and we are thrilled to be opening PS/21’s fourth season,” said Wadden.

Saugerties-based Arm-of-the-Sea Theater takes its name from the Hudson as an estuary. For over 20 years, the five-member performance company has toured throughout the eastern half of the country.

For more information about this or any other performance at PS/21, please call 518.392.6121 or visit ps21chatham.org.

PS/21: Performance Spaces for the 21st Century is a not-for-profit organization located at 3560 Route 66 in Chatham, New York. PS/21 is dedicated to the performing arts and serving a diverse community with concerts, programs and residencies by professional artists and ensembles, youth and children’s programming, and cultural education opportunities for all ages.

The tent at PS/21 is a Saddle Span concert tent, with approximate dimensions of 80-feet by 60-feet and a seating capacity of approximately 200. Its 24 foot height is screened from the road by the topography and the existing apple trees on the site.

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Photo available upon request