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PS21 Presents Arm-of-the-Sea Theater's "To Fuel the Fire"

[CHATHAM, NY] - PS21: Performance Spaces for the 21st Century presents a large-scale mask and puppet theatre production by Arm-of-the-Sea Theater. "To Fuel The Fire" is an allegory about the ecological costs of acquiring and delivering energy. Performances will be held at 3:00 and 7:00 pm on Saturday, August 27 under The Tent at PS21, located at 2980 Route 66 in the Town of Chatham.

Created after the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, this original show features two mythological characters drawn from Ancient Egypt and recast as an immigrant couple running a soup shop on the modern-day Gulf Coast. From their ancient rounds of planting, harvesting, cooking and composting, Isis and Osiris feed generations of workers sent to gather fuel. After the disastrous oil rig explosion, they use their powers to restore the waters of life.

This tragic comedy features primordial masks and kinetic puppet figures, vivid paintings, whimsical props and live music. Larger-than-life size characters, surprising scene transformations, and live music imbue each performance with lyrical energy.

With the Universe as backdrop, the action leapfrogs through events in earth's evolutionary history. Plays-within-the-play depict the rise and fall of civilizations propelled by various fuels. As new cultures scour the earth to keep their fires burning, Isis and Osiris carry-on within cycles of fertility and renewal.

Music provides the engine for the show. "The incomparable Dean Jones is the one-man orchestra for this work and he also provides all the character voices," said Wadden. "It's like watching a three-dimensional cartoon being performed live, with the sound effects man sitting right there next to the action."

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Story and visuals by were created by Marlena Marallo and Patrick Wadden. “Everything in our shows, from the puppet figures to masks, paintings, sculptures, and all kinds of other contraptions, are simply in the service of telling the story by the most visual means possible,” said Wadden. “Our inspirations are as varied as the days in a year, or the stories in the news.”

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Arm-of-the-Sea Theater will perform “To Fuel The Fire” Saturday, August 27 at 3:00 and 7:00pm. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. For information or to order tickets, please call [518.392.6121](tel:518.392.6121) or visit ps21chatham.org. Tickets will also be available at the door until the show sells out.

Saugerties-based Arm-of-the-Sea Theater draws its name from the Hudson River Estuary, a prodigious tidal ecosystem where fresh and salt waters meet and mix. For over 20 years, the five-member performance company has toured throughout the eastern half of the country.

This is their third year performing at PS21.

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PS21: Performance Spaces for the 21st Century is a not-for-profit organization located at 2980 Route 66 in Chatham, New York. PS21 is dedicated to the performing arts and to 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.

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Photo available upon request

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