

10 / 8 / 2023 🔶 THE GARRISON

Dear Marit,



On behalf of the entire Board of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival and its staff and company, I express our love and deep appreciation for your long and generous service to HVSF and our Hudson Valley community. We are so pleased and honored to name you as the first recipient of our award for leadership in service of HVSF's mission, to be named hereafter the "Marit and Lars Kulleseid Award."

Marit, it is no exaggeration to say that we would not be gathered at tonight's gala celebration or embarking on the exciting plans for our new permanent home without you and your inspired and inspiring leadership of HVSF as its co-founder and first Board President. Your 13-year tenure at the helm of a gifted and dedicated group of Board and staff members was marked by rapid growth and was the foundation for decades of wonderful theater.

This all began in 1987 with a group of young actors on the grassy field of Manitoga, with flashlights, ladders and eventually umbrellas-we were quite literally a grassroots organization. In those early years, you and your energetic cohort of community members generously stepped up to the plate, opening up your homes to lodge and prepare meals for the visiting actors and artists and sometimes even stitching the costumes. HVSF blossomed quickly under your wise and graceful leadership; as you once observed, "it took off like a bird in flight." You deftly guided the very best kind of "working board" in collaboration with founding Artistic Director Terry O'Brien and then Managing Director Susan Landstreet, setting the highest standards for excellence.

Your community service extended well beyond HVSF. Soon after you and your husband Lars moved to Garrison in 1964 and started raising a family, you joined the Garrison School Board. You are a talented weaver and artist yourself, and your involvement with the school led you and your fellow Philipstown artists to organize popular art shows and run classes for children and adults alike. That endeavor ultimately became the Garrison Art Center, which today is a highly regarded center for the visual arts that attracts artists from far and wide. And you have contributed to the region's performing arts, lending your alto and musical talent to the prestigious Taghkanic Chorale and now to the Highlands Chorale Society.

Finally, for many years you actively supported the important work of your husband Lars in protecting the environment and beauty of our Hudson River Valley. As a visionary founder of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust and long-time member of its Board, Lars energetically advocated for protecting the scenic beauty and fragile ecosystems of our community, goals which are central to HVSF's plans for its new theater home and its stewardship of the land we cherish.

Marit, you and Lars exemplify what community service is all about, and we are most grateful for the example you set and the generous support you have provided to HVSF for so many years.

With warmest admiration and affection,

Robin Shelby Arditi President of the HVSF Board

October 8, 2023



Dear Margot,

Thank you for agreeing to be an honoree at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF)'s 2023 Gala Celebration. It's my great pleasure to welcome you tonight to our beautiful new home in the Hudson Highlands, where we will build a spectacular new open-air theater that will be an artistic home for future generations of great American classical actors. Providing an artistic home for actors is an abiding passion of mine, and one that I learned from you. On behalf of the HVSF Board of Directors, administrative staff, audiences, and of course, the artists that have graced our stages over the years, I would like to thank you for everything you have done for the theater community in New York and far beyond. Your positive impact has had an incredibly powerful rippling effect, setting in motion so many brilliant careers and touching so many lives through your visionary leadership.

In my own career, you have been a mentor and a cherished friend. You hired me to direct for you when I was very green, all eagerness to dive into the work and hone my craft, and you were one of the first people to take a risk on me. I learned so much about what it means to lead a company by watching you; you're a maestro of managing a crisis, pushing for artistic excellence, and radiating passion for the mission of the company. I remember your huge desk in the Acting Company office on 44th street, with a wall of posters of past productions behind you. It was always so invigorating to stop in the office, plop down on the couch facing your desk, and talk about the productions to come, and how we might bring them to life. To this day, the four productions that we created together remain some of my favorite experiences as a theater artist.

The Acting Company, which was co-founded through your creative vision and sustained by your relentless dedication, is now a 50-year-old American institution – still working to develop young and gifted actors by producing and presenting classical and new plays, both in New York City and on tour. You have ignited the passionate hearts of countless artists, among them many who have graced the stage at HVSF. You bring out their best and show them the path to the artists they will one day become. We are all endlessly grateful for this gift.

Thank you, my friend!

With warmth and affection,

DANS

Davis McCallum HVSF Artistic Director

HVSF Board of Directors

Robin Shelby Arditi President

Laura Jean Wilson Vice President

Edward B. Whitney Secretary

Heather Hopkins Treasurer

Suzanne Baker

Raoul Bhavnani

Mary Elizabeth Bunzel

Luis Castro

Heidi Ettinger

Pepper Evans

Marie Fabian

Randy Florke

Krystal Ford

Sandra Goldmark

Steven L. Holley

Patricia King

Daniel J. Kramer

Christine Wong Lent

Chip Loewenson

Nat Prentice

Frederic C. Rich

Lauri Washington Sawyer

James Stanford

Byron Stinson

Sarena Straus

Dr. Elliott Sumers

Vernon Wilson

Kendra Ekelund Managing Director

Davis McCallum Artistic Director

As of Sept. 25, 2023

Leaders of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival 2023 Gala

Co-Chairs

Robin and Ralph Arditi Dan Kramer and Judy Mogul

Vice-Chairs

Raoul Bhavnani and Savitha Reddy Pepper Evans and Bob Lieber Marie Fabian and Genie Cesar-Fabian Steven L. Holley Heather and Derrick Hopkins Carl Loewenson and Susan Brune Friedrike Merck Frederic C. Rich James Stanford and Kate Farrell Stanford Ned Whitney and Martha Howell Laura Jean Wilson and Mark Menting

Company of Friends

Natalie Fishman Krystal and Darrien Ford Patricia King Marit Kulleseid Drs. Elliott and Anne Sumers

Evening Itinerary

4:45 – 6:00 рм Ceremony Garden and Hudson Room

Drinks and Hors d'oeuvres,

Welcome Remarks

Special Performances

6:00 рм River Room

6:00 PM Honoree Awards and Program

7:00 PM Dinner with Dessert

7:30 PM Live Benefit Auction Led by Nicholas Lowry

Menu

Hors d'oeuvres

Tuna Flatbread with Sriracha Aioli & Chives

Vegetable Spring Rolls with Sweet Chili Sauce

Fried Chicken Dumplings with Ponzu Dipping Sauce

Baked Brie & Raspberry Purses



Shakespeare on the Hudson Whiskey, Campari, Sweet Vermouth

Dinner

Dinner Rolls & Butter

Garrison Farms Baby Greens Salad Red Onion, Toasted Baguette, Shredded Carrots with Sherry Vinaigrette

Seared Salmon with Roasted Shallot Butter

Herb Roasted Chicken Breast with Chicken Jus

Seasonal Roasted Vegetables and Fingerling Potatoes

Dessert

Family-Style Assorted Dessert Platter

Honorees



Marit Kulleseid

Marit and Lars Kulleseid moved to Garrison in 1964 from Brooklyn. They had a Basset Hound and a sixmonth-old baby (Who just turned 60!). They rented an apartment in a barn at the end of South Mountain Pass. There was no Art Center, but there was a small theater group called The Hand to Mouth Players who

performed at the depot. The community was tiny, but there were sparks of life everywhere with people who were willing to start things. Marit and Lars had two more children and more dogs. Soon there were lights on at the old Garrison Post Office for the Garrison Art Center and the theater across the street came alive to become "The Depot". Fast forward to 1985 when Melissa Stern Lourie was working at the Art Center, and in order to raise money for an "art in the school program", she contacted a group of young actors she knew in New York, and they performed Midsummer Night's Dream in a field with flashlights at Manitoga, under the inspired direction of Terry O'Brien. Who knew that this would light a bonfire that would spread and blaze all these years? The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival was born!

As a deeply committed community member, Marit became the Founding Board President of HVSF and an early member of the Highlands Choral Society. Marit and Lars loved working with Co-founders Melissa and Terry and the wonderful HVSF Board of Directors and Susan Landstreet as Executive Director, all of whom worked tirelessly to launch season after season of Shakespeare's plays. While there are so many people to thank, Marit is grateful to all of the intervening Presidents of the Board, all Board members, and now the Arditis, HVSF Board President Robin and Ralph, as well as Artistic Director, Davis McCullum. All of these people have worked incredibly hard to create over 35 years of innovative theater seasons, and now they are building a remarkable new home for HVSF for generations to come.

Photo by: Annette Solakoglu

Honorees



Margot Harley Producer and Co-Founder of The Acting Company

Margot Harley co-founded The Acting Company (TAC) with the impresario John Houseman in 1972. Houseman and Harley, the leadership of the newly formed Drama Division of The Juilliard School,

believed that to truly hone their craft, the first graduating class would benefit from additional performance experience and the exposure to a wide array of audiences nationwide.

Harley served as the producer of TAC, she launched the careers of nearly 500 actors, who have won every major award including the Tony, Oscar, and Emmy. They include: Kevin Kline, Patti LuPone, Rainn Wilson, Allen Gilmore, Roslyn Ruff, Keith David, Harriet Harris, and Tatiana Weschler among others. The Company has toured from coast to coast in small towns and large US Cities for 50 years. In addition, TAC toured the former Soviet Union, Australia, Poland and the former Yugoslavia. The company continues to tour nationwide.

In total, Harley has produced over 100 plays for TAC, as well as productions on and off-Broadway, including the Broadway production of The Robber Bridegroom, and John Houseman's celebrated revival of The Cradle Will Rock which played at the Douglas Fairbanks in New York and the Old Vic in London. She has produced major revivals of the plays of Shakespeare, Sheridan, Tennessee Williams, and Chekhov, while commissioning new work of living dramatists such as Tony Kushner, David Mamet, Wendy Wasserstein, Maria Irene Fornés, Lynn Nottage, John Guare, and Marcus Gardley. These productions were directed by esteemed directors including: Jack O'Brien, Gerald Freedman, Michael Kahn, Garland Wright, Liviu Ciulei, Mark Lamos, Seret Scott, and the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival Artistic Director, Davis McCallum.

For TAC's singular achievement in the American Theatre, Harley accepted the Tony Award for Excellence in Theatre.

Live Auction

2023 Gala Items Benefiting the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival

















Live Auction

2023 Gala Items Benefiting the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival



Nicholas D. Lowry *President and Principal Auctioneer, Swann Auction Galleries*

Nicholas D. Lowry is President and Principal Auctioneer of Swann Auction Galleries, and is also the Director of Swann's Vintage Posters Department. Nicholas joined Swann-the family business-in 1995.

In 2001 Nicholas was named President of Swann. As one of the world's foremost authorities on vintage posters, he has spent nearly 25 years serving regularly as poster appraiser on the PBS television show Antiques Roadshow.

He currently sits on the Board of Governors of The National Arts Club, in New York City, for whom he is also Chairman of the Fine Arts Committee and is a member of the Advisory Board of New York's Poster House Museum where he was also a founding patron. In addition, Nicholas is actively involved with many worthy causes, and often presides over as many as 20 charity auctions a year.

2023 Live Auction Gala Items

A Curated Selection of Glorious Red Wines A Curated Selection of Champagnes Dinner with Davis McCallum and Peter Hoffman A Penthouse with a View in Florence, Italy A Trip to Chicago with a Private Tour of the Studio Gang Office Artist Performance at a Private Party in your Home A Private Dinner Party or Event in the Valley Restaurant A BMW Z3 Cherry Red Convertible HVSF's Education Programs – Paddle Raise

HUDSON VALLEY SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL BENEFIT 2023



Glorious Red Wines

This lot consists of 12 bottles of glorious red wines, all well-aged in a humidity and temperature-controlled wine cellar, and all drinking superbly. Two bottles of each of the six different wines listed below are included in the lot.



2006 Guigal Cote Rotie La Turque – "Bright purple-red color. Intensely floral bouquet displays spicy red berries, violet, red, and minerals, with a touch of singed orange landing an exotic character. The spicy note comes back on the finish, which is impressively fresh and incisive."



2008 Sassicaia – "The 2008 Sassiccaia performs beautifully with an exalted performance and ethereal aromas. They include cassis, wild berry, crushed mineral, licorice, petrol and grilled herb. This wine is really coming together now and is entering a very exciting moment in its drinking life. It boasts finesse, elegance and grace."



2009 Flor de Pingus – "The 2009 Flor de Pingus spent 14 months in a mix of new and used French oak. It is opaque purple in color with a primary perfume of pain grille, mineral, spice box, incense, and blackberry."



2010 Flaccianello della Pieve – "Dark, rich, and powerful, the 2020 Flaccionello wraps around the palate with serious depth and density. The aromas and flavors are totally alive in the glass. Smoke, tobacco and savory herb notes add complexity over time."



2012 Chapoutier Ermitage les Greffieux – "The 2012 Ermitage les Greffieux is a full-bodied, deeply fruited, concentrated and blockbuster effort that stays elegant, polished and balanced. It exhibits incredible amounts of bloody meat, olive tapenade, campfire and sweet, expansive fruit."



2013 Diamond Creek Volcanic Hill Cabernet – "A tour de force of perfection, the 2013 Diamond Creek Volcanic Hill Cabernet offers up crème de cassis, blueberry liqueur, licorice, earth, truffle and graphite. It displays spectacular richness, magnificent balance and texture, and a long, incredibly pure finish of close to a minute."

*All tasting notes and ratings are used courtesy of The Wine Advocate and Vinous Media.

Donated by Friends of HVSF.

Goods and Services: \$2,450. The remainder is a charitable donation.

HUDSON VALLEY SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL BENEFIT 2023



Vintage Champagnes

This lot contains six bottles of vintage Champagne - two bottles each from three of the great French Champagne houses: Dom Ruinart, Roederer Cristal, adn Dom Perignon. The vintages of 2002, 2006, and 2008 were each remarkable and produced memorable, long-lived Champagnes. These have all been well-cellared and now in their prime drinking windows, for the enjoyment of the winning bidder.



2002 Brut Blanc de Blancs Dom Ruinart – "Warm, toasty notes meld into apricots, succulent peaches, white flowers and spices in a rich, expansive Champagne that captures the essence of the year. The 2002 is purer, full-throttle opulence, yet all the elements are very much in balance. A creamy, resonant finish rounds things out in style. ... What a gorgeous wine this is."



2006 Roederer Cristal Rose – "The 2006 Cristal Rose is simply stunning. A vertical towering wine, the 2006 Cristal Rose is a thrill a minute, with a compelling interplay of aromatics and exquisitely layered fruit, all supported by a real feeling of phenolic intensity. While the 2007 is seductive, the 2006 is virile and imposing, with the statuesque lift of a Giacometti sculpture."



2008 Dom Perignon – "The 2008 Dom Perignon is fabulous Lemon peel, white flowers, mint and white pepper give the 2008 its chiseled, bright profile. . . . What I admire most about the 2008 is the way it shows all the focus, translucence and energy that is such a signature of the year, and yet it is also remarkably deep and vertical."

*All scores and ratings are used courtesy of Vinous Media.

Donated by Friends of HVSF.

Goods and Services: \$1,750. The remainder is a charitable donation.

HUDSON VALLEY SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL BENEFIT 2023



Dinner with Davis Designed by Chef Peter Hoffman

Delight in a very special (and delicious!) evening in Cold Spring, NY at the private home of Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's Artistic Director, Davis McCallum. Join Davis and a group of your friends for a dinner designed by Chef Peter Hoffman, and prepared by Peter and Chef Seth Knapp of The Valley Restaurant. Chef/owner of the renowned Savoy, Back Forty and Back Forty West from 1990 to 2016, Peter is a pioneer of farm-to-table food. He believes in sourcing the best in local and seasonal ingredients, which is at the core of his cooking. Peter will prepare a meal from Hudson Valley-grown foods and pair it with handpicked wines from The Valley Restaurant's cellar.

This is your chance to bring twelve people together for an unforgettable dining experience, where you will get the insider perspective on all things HVSF over a carefully curated dinner. You'll find out exactly why Chef Hoffman chose each menu item, and perhaps these discussions will ignite a deeper appreciation for all things artsy and tasty. Foodies and theater lovers, unite and take over!

Donated by Davis McCallum, Peter Hoffman, Seth Knapp, and the HVSF. *Goods and Services: \$2,500. The remainder is a charitable donation.*

HUDSON VALLEY SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL BENEFIT 2023



A Penthouse with a View in Florence, Italy

Relish a week spent in this romantic penthouse apartment in the historic heart of Florence, Italy, The views are stunning...even better than the ones from the movie!

You will be just moments from the Duomo, Ponte Vecchio, and the Uffizi museum. You can sit out on a balcony and watch the sunset bathe the facade of the Palazzo Vecchio. This location is unbeatable.

The charming apartment features a fully-equipped kitchen, living/dining room, rooftop terrace, two bedrooms and a bed/sitting room which is the ultimate room with a view! HVSF will put you in touch with Nicoletta Pini, one of the best Italian tour guides, who can assist with Tuscan winery tours, olive oil tastings, and much more. Experience everything that Florence has to offer!

Ciao, bella!

This two-bedroom apartment sleeps five adults, or four adults and two children. The penthouse is accessible by elevator plus one flight of stairs, and is centrally air-conditioned.

Donated by Patricia King.

Goods and Services: \$2,800. The remainder is a charitable donation.

HUDSON VALLEY SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL BENEFIT 2023



A Trip to Chicago with a Private Tour of the Studio Gang Office

The Windy City is calling! Immerse yourself in Chicago's captivating modern art and design, with an *Architectural Trip and Tour*. You and a guest will fly in for a two-night stay at the St. Regis Hotel, conveniently located where the Chicago River meets Lake Michigan. Designed by internationally acclaimed architect Jeanne Gang, The St. Regis Chicago is a masterpiece of design, soaring 101-stories. While visiting the city, you'll take a boat tour and experience Chicago's famous architecture first-hand, with a theater performance at Writers Theater (designed by Studio Gang), recommended by Davis McCallum, HVSF's Artistic Director. Finally, you'll experience a private tour of Studio Gang's headquarters led by one of their top designers. You'll get the inside scoop on how the gifted Studio Gang team approaches their craft. And, yes! Jeanne Gang of Studio Gang is designing HVSF's new theater venue. You'll leave inspired and energized!

Studio Gang (SG), Founded and led by Jeanne Gang, is an architecture and urban design practice headquartered in Chicago with offices in New York, San Francisco, and Paris. SG works as a collective of more than 100 architects, designers, and planners, using design as a medium to connect people to each other, to their communities, and to the environment. SG designed The Writers Theater, Spelman College Center for Innovation and the Arts, and the recently opened Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation at the American Museum of Natural History, among many, many others. Don't miss the chance to meet this amazing team!

Donated by Davis McCallum, Studio Gang, and the HVSF. Goods and Services: \$4,500. The remainder is a charitable donation.

HUDSON VALLEY SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL BENEFIT 2023



Artist Performance at a Private Party in your Home

What good is sitting alone in your room? Come hear the music play. Life is a cabaret, old chum. Come to the cabaret!

You and your guests will be treated to a private music or theater performance by select members of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's 2024 company. Gather an intimate group of your friends together at your favorite spot or at your home to enjoy a special night of curated music and theater...cabaret-style. Our multi-talented artists will delight the group with performances, music, skits, maybe even some juggling---all featured or inspired by the 2024 HVSF Theater Season.

You won't want to miss this chance to bring HVSF's artists into your home for a night of fun and a showcase of extraordinary talent!

Donated by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival Goods and Services: \$2,500. The remainder is a charitable donation.

HUDSON VALLEY SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL BENEFIT 2023



A Private Dinner Party or Event in the Valley Restaurant

The Valley Restaurant at The Garrison is a beautiful space that features outdoor decks with lovely views of the Hudson Highlands, and it's perfect for your next party or special event! You and up to 12 guests can hold a private event on a select date of your choice. Throw a rehearsal dinner, host a baby shower, a birthday party, anniversary celebration or simply have a fun night out with your closest friends in this special location...and have it all to yourselves.

The Valley Restaurant is a flexible space that can be arranged for any number of events and features access to the World's End Bar. And, HVSF will help to party-plan your event and ensure that you have a smooth and seamless experience. You simply can't let this pass you by!

Subject to availability.

Donated by The Garrison, the HVSF and dependent on availability Goods and Services: \$3,000. The remainder is a charitable donation.

HUDSON VALLEY SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL BENEFIT 2023



A BMW Z3 Cherry Red Convertible

Top down, with the wind in your hair! That's the best way to travel to and from the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival performances and the most delightful way to take in all of the fall scenery and changing leaves as you zip through the countryside.

You can head home from the 2023 HVSF Gala with a beautiful two-seater cherry red BMW Z3. This gem of a head-turner is a 2001 model in excellent condition, having been lovingly maintained by a single owner, and showing very little wear.

If you're considering adding this to your collection, you won't be sorry!

Donated by Patricia King. Pat and the HVSF team are available to discuss the details of this As-Is purchase Goods and Services: \$7,500. The remainder is a charitable donation.

HUDSON VALLEY SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL BENEFIT 2023



Education Programs

Lend us your heart, filled with thankfulness! By raising your paddle this evening, you'll be supporting HVSF's mission-critical education programs that reach over 15,000 children and educators annually.

Through in-school residencies and workshops, touring performances, and family-centered programs, HVSF ensures that finding one's voice in the lines of Shakespeare is exciting and rewarding for all learners. With your support, HVSF will continue to touch the lives of children throughout the Hudson Valley and beyond through theater and engaging work that fosters self expression.

Your bid is essential to the continued success of HVSF's year-round Education Programs.

Education Snapshot



15,000

The number served through in-school education and summer outreach programs through the tri-state region.



of students show more confidence speaking in front of peers after participating in our programs.



of students had never performed a Shakespeare play before participating in our residencies.



of our summer audience gains access to youth, senior, military, and veteran ticket discounts.



300

In-School Workshops conducted with students from K–College.



Educators engaged in regional programming.

30

In-School Performances of our innovative virtual touring production.

			٦
	2	_	
l	<u>-</u>		
			4
۲,	\mathcal{D}		
4			J

Teaching Artists illuminated text for student audiences.



Mission

Rooted in the landscape of the Hudson Valley, with the plays of William Shakespeare as our touchstone, HVSF engages the widest possible audience in a theatrical celebration of our shared humanity.

Vision

We are a classical repertory theater that embraces the present moment, and our work springs from the most essential of elements – actor, audience, language, and landscape. As both a local community hub and a national arts destination, we foster meaningful human connections at the convergence of nature and culture.

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival proudly celebrated a wonderful season of live theater in 2023 – our second on site at our permanent home. HVSF is a critically acclaimed (*The New York Times, The New Yorker, The Wall Street Journal*), professional, non-profit theater company based in Garrison, NY, one-hour north of Manhattan.

The Festival has established a reputation for lucid, engaging, and highly inventive productions staged under an iconic, open-air Theater Tent overlooking the Hudson River. In recent years, the Festival has also ventured beyond the Tent, touring its work to other venues throughout the Hudson Valley, transferring productions to other theaters, engaging its community through radically participatory art-making, and reaching over 15,000 students and educators annually through its year-round Education programs.



Our Next Chapter!

In 2023, the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival continued on our path towards building a new theater venue and cultural campus in the Hudson Highlands. We are proud to have completed our second season of live theater on site at our new home that features 98 acres of magnificent land with stunning river views. This new home, gifted to HVSF in 2019, represents one of the most significant acts of philanthropy in the American theater in more than a generation. Not only is this a singular opportunity for our theater company, it enables us to serve as a vibrant hub for our local community, a year-round cultural anchor for the greater Hudson Valley region, and a model for environmental sustainability in the American theater.

For more information and FAQs please visit hvshakespeare.org/newhome.



2015 US 9 Garrison, NY 10524

845-809-5750 hvshakespeare.org



Design and Artwork

•