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***Hudson Air* is Back at the Opera House in Mock Radio Drama**

HUDSON (September 22, 2008) –*Hudson Air* is back. This popular theatrical presentation of radio plays with live sound effects will be presented at the Hudson Opera House on Friday evening, September 26 at 8 p.m.

Hudson Air recreates the atmosphere of a radio broadcast studio. Audience members get a chance to close their eyes and use their imaginations the way radio audiences did for decades, or they can watch the technicians and see how old-fashioned sound effects are created.

Producers Andrew Joffe and Ellen Thurston have called back veteran members of the Hudson Air Acting Ensemble, all of whom have appeared in previous *Hudson Air* productions. They include Philip Alvare, Martin Baumgold, Liz Beals, David Johnson, Patricia Naggiar, Norman Posner, and Nancy Rothman, in addition to Joffe and Thurston. All are residents of the region, and most have performed locally.

Carole Osterink, who has produced sounds as varied as an annoying “crying baby” and the twang of a crossbow, will serve as the sound effects specialist for this production, creating the audio elements that make the radio plays come to life.

This production of *Hudson Air* will focus on comedy. It includes three episodes of *The Bickersons*, originally performed by Don Ameche and Frances Langford in 1946, *Difonse for the Defense*, a comedy written especially for radio by Andrew Joffe, and two series of short sketches by Joffe entitled *The Vaults of History*, and *Laying Down the Law*.

The program will be introduced by local author Alex McKnight, whose recently published book, *Never Seen, Often Heard*, deals with radio in the 1930s and 40s. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

The evening will be directed by Joffe, who has produced three radio series distributed by National Public Radio and has written audio drama both for radio and the Internet.

Tickets for *Hudson Air* are \$12 and \$10 for Opera House members. Seating is very limited and past productions have sold out. To reserve seats for the Friday night performance, call 518-822-1438 or go to www.hudsonoperahouse.org. The Opera House is located at 327 Warren Street.

The Hudson Opera House is a multi-arts center in New York State’s oldest theatre, built in 1855. It offers numerous cultural programs for adults and children, including concerts, readings, exhibitions, performances, lectures, workshops, after school programs and a Junior Membership Program which provides access to free performances and other art making activities for children.

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