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WELCOME TO GREENSTAGE 2023!

Thank you for attending our fourth biennial festival—the first under our new name, GreenStage Guilford Live Arts. Folks often ask us, “What’s this GreenStage thing?” after five years as the Guilford Performing Arts Festival. The answer is that it’s about a number of things: a more dynamic (and easier to say!) name, one that clearly communicates what we do—including commissioning new work and centering shows on the historic Guilford Green—and one that provides flexibility for some exciting things we’re percolating for the future.

Whatever our name, we continue to do what we’ve always attempted to do: stage a highly diverse festival that presents a range of artistic genres and voices; showcases regional and national talent with an emphasis on original work; encourages participation in the arts and stimulates curiosity about human artistry, history and culture; and offers innovative education to students. All, whenever possible, completely free.

I hope you enjoy this week of live arts, that you have fun, that you’ll try something you haven’t tried before, learn something new about the world and your fellow human travelers—and most important, that you’ll get up and dance, sing and tell your stories. The world wants to hear your voice!

Peter Hawes
executive director and chairman



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FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

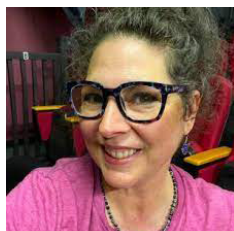
9/17-9/24

Sunday, 9/17 ■ 7pm

Laura Thoma, *Yours in Words*. Staged dramatic reading.
Arthur Murray Dance Studio

A tale about women, love and power set in the late 1800s. Challenging gender norms and societal limitations, it's for those who don't fit in, those pursuing their dreams when others say they shouldn't, and those in search of their authentic selves. Directed by Bobby Johnson. Stage managed by Teresa Mella Fogel and featuring Rachel H. Babcock, Jordan Chenette, Derek Clark, Michael Vernon Davis, Julie Fitzpatrick, David Hamilton and Raven Rose.

Writer/director Thoma's work has been published and presented internationally. Her screenplay *Me, Myself and I* won 18 awards from film festivals in London, Paris and New York. She's co-founder of Shoreline Playwrights, which develops new works.



Monday, 9/18 ■ 7pm

Alexa Patrick and Ilana Zaks, *Synesthesia/Alexllana*.
Violin, spoken word, visual art. Guilford Art Center

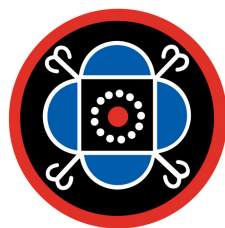
Patrick and Zaks perform music and spoken word in communication with works in the Guilford Art League's annual exhibition, featuring improvisation and readings from Patrick's new poetry collection, *Remedies for Disappearing* (Haymarket Books 2023). Patrick is a vocalist and poet from Connecticut. Holding fellowships from Cave Canem, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and more, she made her stage production debut this spring as Un/Sung in the opera *We Shall Not Be Moved* (choreographed by Bill T. Jones). Her work appears in *Adroit*, *CRWN Magazine* and *The BreakBeat Poets Vol. 2: Black Girl Magic*. See Zaks' bio under Sunday, 9/24.



Tuesday, 9/19 ■ 7pm

Mohegan Tribe Dancing, drumming, storytelling.
Guilford Community Center

Members of the Mohegan Tribe's Cultural and Community Programs Department and other tribal members tell stories, perform traditional dances and drumming, teach tribal history and bring the Mohegan culture to life.



Wednesday, 9/20 ■ 7pm

Schuyler Beeman, *Home Again*. Cabaret.
First Congregational Church

A sequel to his 2014 cabaret *Home*, *Home Again* recounts Beeman's journey home to a dream life he never could have imagined. Bill Speed, piano; Mark Gehret, bass; Brendan Galvin, drums. A graduate of Middlebury College with a degree in theatre performance, Beeman worked professionally for close to ten years in the United States and Europe as a musical theatre performer and choreographer. He was also a handler for theatrical and film animal trainer Bill Berloni. Nowadays, Beeman gardens, raises sheep, rabbits and poultry at his North Guilford farm, Arbor Farm, and is pursuing a career in elementary education.



Thursday, 9/21 ■ 6:15pm

Dinner on the Green

Drinks, dinner, mingling, dancing to benefit GreenStage. Guilford Green
(paid event by reservation only)

Friday, 9/22

3pm ■ **Jeff Beal** Solo piano.
First Congregational Church

Beal, a five-time Emmy-award-winning composer of music for film, television, the concert hall and dance, performs ten original piano etudes. Among his multitude of credits, Beal composed the main theme to the television show *House of Cards* and wrote the scores to the movie *Pollock*; the documentaries *Blackfish*, *An Inconvenient Sequel*, *JFK Revisited* and *The Biggest Little Farm*; and the TV shows *The Newsroom*, *Rome* and *Monk*. His recent orchestral commissions include works for the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Los Angeles Master Chorale, The New West Symphony, the Minnesota Symphony Orchestra, the Brooklyn Youth Chorus and Cantus, plus dance compositions for Oregon Ballet Theatre and Smuin Ballet.



4:30pm ■ **Danielle Munsell Howard** Soprano.
First Congregational Church

A program of late 19th-21st-century music by underrepresented women, BIPOC and LGBTQ+ composers, accompanied by pianist William Braun. Howard, whose repertoire ranges from Bach to Stravinsky, has performed with the American Bach Soloists, Amherst Early Music Festival, Boulder Bach Festival, the Yale Collegium Soloists, Princeton Pro Musica and many contemporary choral and chamber ensembles. She debuted in New York in *La Corona* at Merkin Hall with the Queen's Chamber Band and has sung internationally in Germany, Austria, France, Mexico and The Netherlands. Her recordings include Gluck's one-act operas, *Il Parnaso Confuso* and *La Corona*.



7pm ■ **New England Ballet Theatre** Dance.
Guilford Green

Performing three original works: *Focus Point* by Saki Morimoto, *In Her Image* by Sarah Grace and *B-Side* by Rachael Gnatowski. Gnatowski co-founded Hartford-based NEBT in 2020 to develop new choreography and produce new ballets, giving choreographers artistic freedom in the creative process. Gnatowski has danced professionally with Ballet Fleming, Fort Wayne Ballet and Ballet Hartford, and has guested with the Albany Berkshire Ballet, Deos Contemporary Ballet and Three Rivers Dance. NEBT's next production will be an original adaptation of *The Red Shoes* at Hartford's Wadsworth Atheneum on October 21 and 22.



9pm ■ **Jonathan Barber & Vision Ahead @ GreenStage Café** Jazz.
Arthur Murray Dance Studio

A fresh blend of classic jazz with elements of gospel, rock, soul and fusion, performed by this ascendant quintet led by *Modern Drummer's* Best Up-and-Coming Drummer of 2018. Barber has recorded and toured with Pat Metheny, Terence Blanchard, Christian McBride, Nicholas Payton, Buster Williams, Wallace Roney, Terrence Martin, Jennifer Holiday, Harold Mabern, Steve Davis and others; and performed with the Brooklyn Philharmonic and Erykah Badu at the BAM Opera House. Vision Ahead features Andrew Renfroe on guitar, Matt Dwonszyk on bass, Taber Gable on piano and Matt Knoegel on saxophone.



Saturday, 9/23

10:30am ■ **Oompa Possum Puppets** Puppetry.
Guilford Green

A nature-themed puppet show for kids in which audience members will learn about the animals that grace our local forests, skies and seas—followed by a backstage tour and stations where kids can make their own puppets. Puppeteer Kimberly Van Aelst has been performing puppet shows for children and adults around the world for more than a decade. Her many honors include a Kennedy Center VSA Award and a Performance Award at the World Festival of Puppet Art in Prague. Her puppet film *Lost & Found* was screened at the 2012 World Festival of Puppet Art in Prague and at 92Y-Tribeca.



10:30am-5pm ■ **Hands-on Artmaking**
Guilford Green (also Sunday, September 24)

Instructors from the Guilford Art Center provide materials and guidance in creating art in response to performances on festival stages and activity on the Guilford Green. Appropriate for artists and aspiring artists of all ages and abilities.



11am-5pm ■ **StoryCorps DIY** Tell your story.
Guilford Library (also Sunday, September 24)

The festival provides a sound booth at the Guilford Library where friends, family members and others can interview each other, tell stories and take home a recording while a copy gets sent to the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., for storage among the largest collection of human voices ever archived. Former ABC News radio correspondent Richard Davies produces and facilitates this program inspired by by StoryCorps, a national organization committed to the idea that everyone's story matters; select stories are broadcast weekly on NPR to more than 12 million listeners.



11am-5pm ■ **Plein Air Painting**
Guilford Green

Plein air painters descend on Guilford to add a performative aspect of visual art to the festival for the first time. Artists will be painting throughout Guilford during the week of the festival, and many will exhibit their work on the Green on Sunday, September 24.



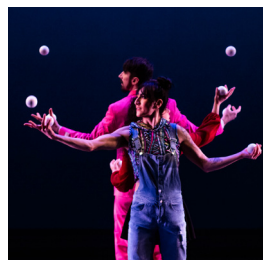
11:30am ■ **Black and Silver Productions, *Women Tell: Our Firsts*.** Storytelling.
Guilford Green

Jennifer Munro and Denise Page, recipients of a festival Artists' Award in Drama, curate a program of women storytellers, whose new works tell of their "firsts": first child in a family to attend college, first to marry outside the family's culture, first-generation American, first to come out, to learn a foreign language, to be elected to government office, to perform surgery, etc. The performers are Carol Birch of Southbury; Jean Le Bec of Brooklyn, NY; Nina Lesiga of Stratford; Wendy Marans of Hamden; and Jessica Robinson of Fairfax, Virginia.



12:30pm ■ **Air Temple Arts** Circus skills performance/workshop.
Guilford Green

Air Temple Arts, Connecticut's leading aerial dance and circus school, presents a new work and accompanying workshop. Fusing juggling, dance and comedy, REDUX explores collisions and near misses between three individuals while untangling patterns—the ones we create for comfort and safety, the ones we find ourselves stuck in—performed with balls, hoops, suitcases, gravity and time. Workshop participants will use juggling techniques to explore artistic expression and collaboration through the movement language of circus arts. Air Temple performs and teaches a variety of aerial arts, as well as traditional circus arts such as juggling, flexibility and hand balancing.



1:30pm ■ **Movimiento Cultural** Bomba dance performance/workshop.
Guilford Green

An interactive showcase of Bomba, a 400-year-old tradition of music, songs, storytelling and dance from Puerto Rico, presented by an ensemble of singers, percussionists and dancers. Enslaved Africans used Bomba in the 1600s to make music, communicate among one another, share stories, and plan escapes and revolts. You'll learn the history of Bomba and of the instruments, rhythms and stories, and have a chance to try out the dance moves. Movimiento Cultural Afro-Continental Inc., is a cultural, arts and community organization whose mission is to educate people about Puerto Rico's rich African-based folklore and other art forms.



2:30pm ■ **Oghlan Bakhshi** Mystical Turkmens music and stories.
Guilford Green

Oghlan Bakhshi, meaning “a child bard prodigy,” is the stage name of Mohammad Geldi Geldi Nejad, an Iranian-born master singer and virtuoso player of the dutar—a two-stringed lute native to Central Asia. At the age of 9, Turkmen music masters bestowed upon him this honorary title. Through his performances, demonstrations and narrations of traditional epic stories, Oghlan Bakhshi introduces you to the rich music and culture of the Turkmen ethnic group. This group primarily resides in Turkmenistan, northeastern Iran, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Turkey and Tajikistan.



3:30pm ■ **Goodnight Moonshine** Americana/folk music.
Guilford Green

This Americana/folk duo features singer, songwriter and guitarist Molly Venter (Red Molly) and multi-instrumentalist, singer and producer Eben Pariser (Roosevelt Dime) in a performance that pairs the intimacy and immediacy of the '90s with the sonic explosion of the 1960s. The combination of Venter's stream-of-consciousness lyrics and “biker-chick-smoky” voice with Pariser's adventurous guitar licks produce a folk music with a depth of improvisation and tonal subtlety usually reserved for jazz. They're working on a new album, and you'll get a chance to preview the songs before they're released!



5pm ■ **Marika Kuzma, *Sing Like a Bird*** Singing workshop.
Guilford Green

Joyous singing led by a preeminent choral master and conductor, with donations benefiting Ukrainian relief. Kuzma, who led the choral program at the University of California-Berkeley for 25 years, has led choirs in performances around the globe, in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Los Angeles' Disney Hall, Pixar Studios, St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, Montreal's Place des Arts and Brazil's Sala Sao Paolo. Of Ukrainian descent, she's gained recognition for her scholarship, performances and recordings of Slavic music. But today, it's about YOU—making sound and celebrating with family, friends, neighbors and friends-to-be through song.



6pm ■ **Natyamandala** Bharatanatyam dance performance/workshop.
Guilford Green

An interactive performance of Bharatanatyam, a classical dance form from India, featuring intricate footwork, complex rhythms and depictions of mythological stories and emotions intended to transport dancer and viewer to spiritual places; it was traditionally performed in temples to invoke the gods. Artistic director Smita Krishnaswamy has danced for more than 25 years, with a repertoire ranging from traditional to modern choreography. Today's show features Induvadana Malli, director of Bharata Choodamani Dance Academy and Krishnaswamy's dance guru, from Chennai, India. Based at Yale, Natyamandala performed at the 2019 festival, and we're bringing them back for a more participatory experience.



7pm ■ **Peter Sonenstein, *The End of Empire***. Multimedia staged reading.
Guilford Green

Playwright Sonenstein, recipient of an Artists' Award in Drama, explores the impact of technology on society. Loosely based on *Oedipus Rex*, the play follows executives at the world's largest social media platform to examine the rapid evolution of digital technology and its effects through the eyes of those who control it. This reading results from workshops directed by Kevin Michael Reed. Sonenstein has written a number of new works since 2020; his *Under the Wide and Starry Sky* was a quarter-finalist in the 2021 Austin Film Festival Playwriting Competition and a semifinalist at the 2022 Garry Marshall New Works Festival.



9pm ■ **Beecher & Joe Gerics @ GreenStage Café** Comedy.
Arthur Murray Dance Studio

Comedian Beecher headlines and Joe Gerics opens GreenStage's first comedy night. Beecher has performed in the Brooklyn, Bijou and Boston comedy festivals and won the Connecticut Comedy Festival. He was a contributing performer to *NEWSical the Musical*; has recorded segments for the *Wendy Williams Show* and MTV2; and he appears in HBO's *Vinyl*, *Gotham* on Fox, *The Get Down* on Netflix and *The Jim Gaffigan Show*. Gerics is a founder and owner of the Fairfield Comedy Club, a creator of the Free Standup Festival in NYC, and a regular at the Fairfield Comedy Club and New York Comedy Club.



Sunday, 9/24

11am-5pm ■ **Plein Air Painting** Guilford Green (see Saturday, September 23)

11:30am ■ **VisABLE Dance** Interactive performance for all abilities.
Guilford Green

The culmination of three weekend workshops, this performance brings together people of all intellectual, physical and emotional abilities in a joyful celebration of dance and movement. Audience participation is strongly encouraged! Using the language of dance, participants discover and express their individual voices, and in the process make powerful and meaningful connections with themselves and one another. Facilitator Kerry Kincy is a

movement therapist and expressive arts consultant. She directs New Haven Ballet's Shared Ability program, is a visiting lecturer at Wesleyan University and is founder of the Free Center community impact incubator in Middletown.



11:30am-5pm ■ **Hands-on Artmaking** Guilford Green (see Saturday, September 23)

12-5pm ■ **StoryCorps DIY** Tell your story. Guilford Library (see Saturday, September 23)

12:30pm ■ **Ilana Zaks, *Sounds of New England***. Violin and electronics.
Guilford Green

Zaks, first violinist with the Seattle Symphony who made her concert debut at 11, studied with Itzhak Perlman and takes an unusually innovative approach to her instrument, presents a suite for violin, recorded sound and looping technology. Recipient of an Artists' Award in Music, she traveled around New England recording and documenting local music and the heritage and cultures from which it emerges for this piece. She's a frequent collaborator with artists, videographers, dancers and others to create multidisciplinary works that prioritize inclusion of underrepresented and living composers. She released her first visual album, *The Persistence of Memory*, in 2019.



2pm ■ **Middle Eastern Dance Academy** Belly dance performance/workshop.
Guilford Green

Members of the Middle Eastern Dance Academy of Connecticut perform, demonstrate and teach *Raqs sharqi* (or "belly dance"), a professional form of folk and social dancing derived from Asia Minor, particularly Egypt. Trained in 16 dance forms, academy founder Kelveia Mitri-Meda has performed at Madison Square Garden, CopaCabana and Foxwoods, and at the New Haven inaugural balls for President Barack Obama and Mayor Toni Harp. Her proudest stage moments were being in the opening acts for Lebanese singers Ragheb Alama in 2019 and Saif Nabeel in 2020.



3pm ■ **Jeff Beal Trio** Jazz.
Guilford Green

Trumpeter/pianist, composer, conductor and bandleader performs with his trio, featuring bassist John Patitucci and guitarist Steve Cardenas. See Beal's bio under Friday, 9/22. Listing Patitucci and Cardenas' credits would take pages; they include performing and recording with B. B. King, Bonnie Raitt, Chick Corea, Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Michael and Randy Brecker, George Benson, Dizzy Gillespie, Natalie Cole, Bon Jovi, Sting, Queen Latifah, Carly Simon, Stan Getz, Pat Metheny, Wynton Marsalis, McCoy Tyner, Nancy Wilson, Freddie Hubbard, Aaron Neville, Natalie Cole, Joni Mitchell, Carole King, Milton Nascimento, Astrud and Joao Gilberto, Airto and Flora Purim, and Ivan Lins.



5pm ■ **Dingonek Street Band** Funky, high-energy brass band.
Guilford Green

A hit at the 2019 festival, this Brooklyn-based band with Guilford roots (wind player Emily Pecoraro) performs funky, high-energy party music drawn from the second-line brass band tradition seasoned with Afrobeat, Ethiopian jazz, punk rock, free jazz and Balkan brass music. Their music is a wild blending of worlds, mixing African rhythms with jazz improvisation, Romani scales with second-line grooves, brass and reeds with drums, gongs, bells and broken glass. The fast-paced instrumental adventure finds the band taking creative risks without losing hold of the earthy grooves that form the foundation for party music the world over.



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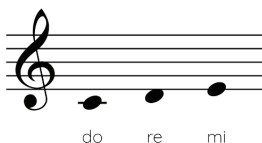
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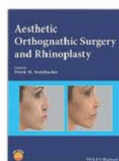
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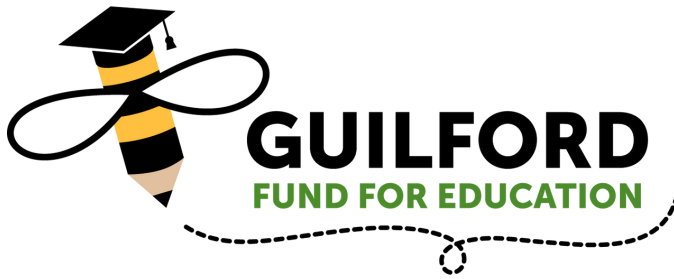
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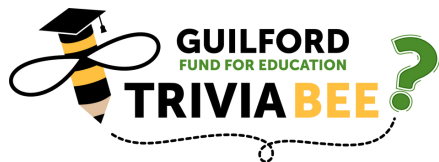
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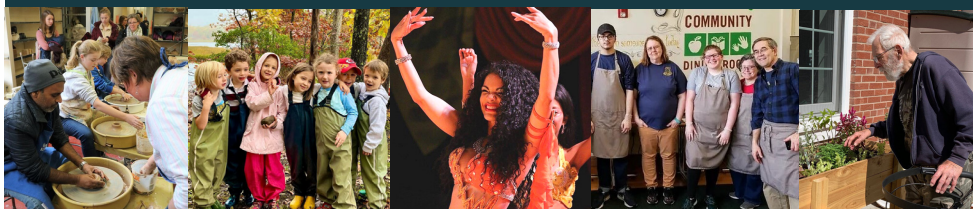


GFFE is a proud sponsor of GreenStage Guilford and the 2023 Festival. GFFE benefits Guilford youth and supports educators of all kinds who bring creative ideas to life. Find out how you can help during our 2023-24 Annual Appeal and learn more at: gffe.org

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Guilford Fund For Education (GFFE) is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that gives educators and students an avenue to explore, experiment, and bring fresh educational ideas and experiences to youth by funding proposals which fall outside of an organization's budget.



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