

Wintergreen Performing Arts
P.O. Box 816
Wintergreen, VA 22958
info@wintergreenperformingarts.org

Contact: Lynnda Gilliam
(434) 325-2009
lgilliam@mindspring.com
(not for publication)

Wintergreen Summer Music Festival Offers Italian Films and Two Plays

For immediate release

Wintergreen, VA – An Italian Film Festival and two plays complement the many musical performances of the 2008 Wintergreen Summer Music Festival and Academy: “Old World, New World - Spain, France, Italy, and The Americas - A Journey of Discovery,” July 7-Aug. 3, 2008.

Celebrate Italian culture by enjoying some classic and recent Italian films during the Wintergreen Italian Film Festival July 21-27 in the Nelson Room at the Wintergreen Nature Foundation. All of the films are in Italian with English subtitles and contain adult themes appropriate for mature audiences. An opening reception follows the screening of the first film on July 21.

La Dolce Vita (1960, 174 minutes) (*The Sweet Life*), directed by Federico Fellini, will be shown July 21 at 4:00 pm and July 26 at 1:30 pm.

Fellini's *Le Notti di Cabiria* (1957, 110 minutes) (*Nights of Cabiria*) will be shown July 22 and 25 at 5:00 pm.

The third film is *Io non ho paura* (2003, 108 minutes) (*I'm not Afraid*), based on the 2001 novel by Niccolò Ammaniti and directed by Gabriele Salvatores. This film opens July 22 at 7:30 pm and will be repeated July 24 and 26 at 5:00 pm, and July 27 at 11:00 am.

Pane e Tulipani (2000, 114 minutes) (*Bread and Tulips*) rounds out the festival's offerings. Directed by Silvio Soldini, the film opens July 23 at 5:00 pm. Additional showings are scheduled for July 24, 25, and 26 at 7:30 pm, and July 27 at 2:00 pm.

Free and open to the public, the film festival is presented in cooperation with the Italian Film Festival of Miami, FL, Claudio Di Persia, president and artistic director; the Virginia Film Festival; and Ecco Italy in Charlottesville, VA, Christina Ball, owner and director.

Americas Week at the Wintergreen Summer Festival is so big it starts during Italy Week with five performances of “*Jamaica, Farewell*,” an original play performed and written by Debra Ehrhardt. An uproarious tour-de-force, Debra Ehrhardt is a captivating storyteller who, by the end of each performance, has convinced the audience members they have just seen a play with a full cast!

Set against the political upheaval in Jamaica during the '70s, the play is based on Ehrhardt's true life story – an unforgettable journey of escaping poverty, revolution, prison time, rape and death in the island paradise brought to the brink of ruin by violent revolution. With the

odds stacked against her, she pulls off a daring caper with the unwitting help of a CIA agent in order to fulfill her lifelong dream of starting over in America.

Directed by Wallace Norman, *Jamaica, Farewell*, just completed an eight-week Off-Broadway run in New York. Reactions? “Exuberant! High Comedy!” (*The New York Times*) and “POWERFUL . . . With wit and a melodic Jamaican lilt . . . Ehrhardt proves to be an entertaining and charming raconteur” (*The New Yorker*).

The play will be presented July 21, 22, 24, 25, and 26 at 8:15 pm in the Festival Performance Center, located adjacent to lot 2 at Wintergreen Resort. An opening night reception follows the July 21 performance, and *Talkback* with Debra Ehrhardt will follow the performances on July 22 and 25. Tickets to all performances are \$20 for adults, \$10 for ages 10-17; under 10 admitted free.

Six performances of *A House in the Country*, the Helen Hayes-Award winning play by Peter Coy, are scheduled during Americas Week July 28-Aug. 3. Wintergreen Performing Arts presents the play, written in 2000, in cooperation with the Hamner Theater of Nellysford, VA.

Jonathan Padgett of *Metro Weekly* wrote, “With a play about infidelity, obsession, and abuse, it's hard to imagine leaving the theater in better spirits than when you came in. Yet that's exactly what happens. In addition to the usual feeling of relief after a good catharsis, the play inspires nothing less than joy, hope, and awe. An engrossing, disturbing story with an intense, demanding narrative style. The events in the intertwined lives of the characters unfold in a kaleidoscope of dialogue, monologue, and description unbound by chronological order.”

Performances of *A House in the Country*, directed by Boomie Pedersen, will be July 28-Aug. 2 at 8:15 pm in the Festival Performance Center. An opening night reception follows the July 28 performance, and *Talkback* with the cast, playwright and director will follow the performances on July 29 and August 1. Tickets to all performances are \$20 for adults, \$10 for ages 10-17; under 10 admitted free. However, this play contains adult themes appropriate for mature audiences.

In addition, Peter Coy and Boomie Pedersen will talk about the play during the Morning Seminars on July 28, July 30, and Aug. 1 from 9:30 am-11:45 am at the Tuckahoe School in Nellysford, VA. Tickets to the Morning Seminars are available for \$50 per week (a total of 10 hours) or \$15 per day (a total of two hours). Morning Seminars are also included in the Festival Season Pass, which costs \$350.

These events are all part of Wintergreen Performing Arts' 2008 Summer Music Festival, which includes orchestra and chamber music concerts, solo recitals, a series of informal seminars, cooking classes, wine tastings, plays, cabaret performances, a film festival – more than 150 events in all. Ticket information and a full schedule of activities can be found at www.wintergreenperformingarts.org

Located in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, Wintergreen Performing Arts, Inc (WPAI), under the Artistic and Executive direction of Larry Alan Smith, is a non-profit organization that produces a high-quality summer music festival featuring symphonic and chamber concerts, as well as other performing arts programs throughout the year. Education is a major part of the organization's mission, reflected both in the Wintergreen Summer Music Academy and in outreach programs for those living in the surrounding area. By attracting first-rate musicians to participate as performers and educators, WPAI strives to enrich the lives of all—residents and visitors alike—who share the unique Wintergreen experience.

###