



“DE NOVO” ACTORS TO ARTS ON THE LAKE

Four actors from different backgrounds will play the eleven roles in “De Novo” at Arts on the Lake, Saturday, April 25, at 8 pm.

Created by the Houses on the Moon Theatre Company from court transcripts, interviews and letters, the docudrama “De Novo” tells the true story of fourteen year old Edgar Chocoy’s legal struggle to stay with family in the United States after fleeing gang violence in his native Guatemala.

The court-appointed lawyer who helps him is played by Emily Joy Weiner, co-artistic director of Houses on the Moon. With experience at the Williamstown Theater Festival, the Madison Repertory Theatre, Ms. Weiner is also noted for her one-woman adaptation of William Faulkner’s *As I Lay Dying*.

The son of Guatemalan immigrants himself, Rudy De La Cruz takes on the role of Edgar Chocoy. He is a graduate of both NYS Tisch School of the Arts and Comedy Central’s “Broad City.”

Both Chocoy’s mother and his judge in this production are played by Sol Miranda who, locally, is a co-founder of Embark, a performing and literary arts center in Peekskill.

Playwright Camilo Almonacid (NY Times 2014 Critics Pick for “After the Crowds”) returns to his acting roots (Globe Theater, London; BFA, Rutgers) in “De Novo” with characters who both hurt and help Chocoy in his journey.

Jeffrey Solomon, curator and director of “De Novo,” has said the mission of Houses on the Moon is to make “unheard voices heard.” Solomon’s other experience has included an Emmy nomination as Best Children’s Special for his teleplay for “CityKids.” He is also a Grand Slam winner on NPR’s Moth Hour.

In writing to the Arts on the Lake membership after seeing a recent performance of “De Novo” at Westchester Community College, James Shearwood, Director of Theatre Programming at AotL, said it is a play “that leaves an audience more alive, more knowledgeable, and readier to engage with interest and respect towards all.”

Productions of Houses on the Moon are supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts.

To reach a wider audience, following its performance at Arts on the Lake, 640 Route 52, Lake Carmel, on Saturday, April 25, at 8 pm, “De Novo” will be performed at Studio Around the Corner in Brewster on May 9 at 7 pm.

Additional information and tickets (\$15) can be secured at www.artsonthelake.org or (845) 228-2685.

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