



**ARTS ORGANIZATIONS PARTNER TO PRESENT
“DE NOVO”**

Judy Marano, Executive Director of Studio Around the Corner, and James Shearwood, Theatre Programs Director at Arts on the Lake, have announced that their respective organizations will partner to bring the documentary play “De Novo” to Putnam County for a performance at AOTL in Lake Carmel on April 25 and at the Studio in Brewster on May 9.

Created by the off-Broadway Houses on the Moon Theatre Company, this play, crafted entirely from immigration court transcripts, interviews and letters, tells the true story of fourteen-year-old Edgar Chocoy and his legal struggle to be allowed to stay in the United States.

Directed by Jeffrey Solomon and Emily Weiner, the work of Houses on the Moon Theatre Company is to make “unheard voices heard.”

Last October, following a residency at SPACE on Ryder Farm in Brewster, the Houses Company brought a reading of people who had been affected by guns – positively and negatively – to Arts on the Lake where Director Shearwood reports that audiences, in their own words, found the work “moving, compelling, luminous and heart-rending.”

In “De Novo,” it is the “unheard voice” of a young Guatemalan who escapes the death sentence of a gang, and makes his way to join his mother in California that it being heard in the play.

“Adding a human face to the national conversation on immigration is what a live production like this can do,” said Shearwood.

Marano, in addition to being Executive Director of Studio Around the Corner, has developed an English as a Second Language program in Brewster that is supporting this production.

Marano was also instrumental in securing a performance of “De Novo” for students at Westchester Community College this semester, where the production was followed by discussion with immigration and human rights experts.

More information and advance tickets (\$15) for the Putnam productions can be secured at www.artsonthelake.org (845-228-2685) and www.oththeater.org (845-363-8330).

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