***ADIRONDACK AWAKENING***

**AT FORT SALEM**

SALEM — Fort Salem Theater’s final Mainstage offering for its summer season opens Friday, August 5 for a one weekend run, Friday and Saturday at 8 PM and Sunday at 2 PM. *Adirondack Awakening* is an historical musical about the Adirondack region, written in 2008 with a grant from the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council by Emmy Award-winning writer/producer Stephen Trombley and the Fort’s artistic director, Jay Kerr.

In a review of the 2008 production, Salem Town Historian Al Cormier offered this: “This original musical, *Adirondack Awakening*, features, in a rollicking and sometimes somber manner, little known details about New York State's Adirondack Park. While the performers wound their way through historical vignettes about the early Dutch, English and French pioneers who vied for the beaver trade and valuable mineral and logging rights in the undeveloped North Country, I couldn't help but wonder why learning about history couldn't always be this much fun.”

The original presentation featured the two authors, who were almost old enough to have participated in some of the very history about which they sang. This summer’s cast ranges in ages from seventeen to twenty-five. 2015 *American Idol* contestant Katherine Skinner is joined by Ben Phillips, who performed with Skinner last year at Fort Salem in *Little Red Riding Hood: A Feminist Ecological Musical;* Tommy Swimm, from last year’s *Dracula’s Grandmother;* and Jessica O’Keefe, who has been featured at the Salem venue in *A Christmas Carol, Breakfast Epiphanies, Corn! The Musical, The Young Divas,* and *Winning the Lottery.*

“Steve Trombley won his Emmy for a documentary about the Nuremberg trials,” notes his co-author. “This show is funnier. We have a terrific young cast who are learning and marveling about all of the facts in the show just two weeks before the audiences they’ll be teaching.” Choreographing and supervising the staging of the entire production, Susan Ciccarelli Caputo comes to her new role as one of the two female co-stars of the original production. “It’s very helpful to know what succeeded eight years ago, and exciting to change things up to make it all work even better.”

Whether documenting the invention of the paper bag in Ballston Spa, celebrating the region in art and literature, or telling the story of Paul Smith and his successful hotel that catered to the downstate wealthy, *Adirondack Awakening* promises to be, as its publicity proclaims, “a witty and somewhat accurate Musical History of the Mountains, Mountain Men, their Women, and the Miracle by which they all survived.”

*Adirondack Awakening* plays Friday and Saturday, August 5-6 at 8 PM, and Sunday afternoon at 2 PM. For more information, visit the Fort online (*[fortsalemtheater.com](http://fortsalemtheater.com)*) or call the box office: (518) 854-9200.