**FORT SALEM OBSERVES**

**DIRECTOR’S MILESTONE**

SALEM — Fort Salem Theater closes out its 2016 summer season this weekend with *Kerr and Company in Concert Cabaret,* a summary in story and song of the fifty year career of its artistic director. Jay Kerr leads a company of talented singers who have performed his music over the years, with a Farm-to-Table Dinner Cabaret at Gardenworks Farm, in Salem, on Saturday, August 20 starting at 5:30 PM, and in the Fort’s cabaret, Sunday, August 21, at 2 PM. Reservations are required for the Gardenworks show and requested for the one at the Fort.

“I’ll be doing a medley of my favorite interactions with celebrities,” Kerr offered recently. “Since we are limited by time and my own attention span, the stories have to be about more than sightings of famous people. They’ll be about my humble interaction with them.” From his first job in regional theater, being tutored in theater etiquette by underground actress Tally Brown, who had appeared on Broadway and in several Andy Warhol films, through teaching songs to Joanne Woodward or consulting on a film with Richard Dreyfuss, Kerr will tell tales of his show business joys and woes. “But mostly it’s about the music.”

To give voice to his music, Kerr has enlisted his favorite interpreter of song, his wife, Lynne, with whom he recorded the CD, *Songs My Husband Wrote,* in 2011. “She came to me to learn how to sing,” he says, “and she was one of those people who could sing already— what’s not to love about that! I found an old song she’d never heard; it’ll be the first time its ever been sung in public.”

Joining Lynne on the bill are two young singers from New York City, who recently sang the leads in the World Premiere of Kerr’s *Alice of Old Vincennes* at the Red Skelton Performing Arts Center in Indiana. Eric Sorrels is a recent graduate in theatre from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and has sung roles in shows as diverse as *Three Penny Opera* and *Rent.* Emily Reeves holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. She has performed regionally at the Barrington Stage, where she impressed Broadway composer William Finn in a role in his show, *You’re Standing in My Way,* for him to invite her to sing in *Broadway Close-Up: William Finn* at the Kaufman Center in Manhattan.

At the Gardenworks show, former news anchor and still Singing Anchor Jerry Gretzinger will sing two songs from *Women in My Life,* a show written by Kerr in which Gretzinger starred in 2014. “He’ll duet in one of the songs with his wife, Erin, who played a character in the show based on *my* wife, Lynne. The women like each other much better than they like us,” Kerr jokes.

*Kerr and Company in Concert Cabaret* accompanies a Farm-to-Table Dinner at Gardenworks Farm on Saturday, August 20, at 5:30 PM ($65 includes, dinner, tip, taxes, and performance) and Sunday, August 21 ($25 includes show, coffee, and dessert). Reservations are required for dinner and requested for the Fort Salem performance, and are available by calling (518) 854-9200, or going on the theater’s website (*[fortsalemtheater.com](http://fortsalemtheater.com)*).