**SALEM AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**HOST BENEFIT SALUTE TO ROUTE 30**

SALEM, NY — The Board of Directors of the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce announce a benefit performance of the collaboration between Fort Salem Theater and Gardenworks Farm, a multimedia live musical presentation celebrating *Route 30: Art and Agriculture,* Saturday, November 4, at 7:30 PM at Fort Salem Theater. Proceeds for the event will help support the Chamber’s Crisis Fund, which contributes modest grants toward medical expenses to local residents. Doors open at 7:00 PM, when locally sourced beer and wine will be available for purchase.

*Route 30* includes short films highlighting several businesses along the sixteen mile long county road, with live music accompanying shorts that highlight artists’ concepts of the road’s scenery, ranging from oils, pastels, sketches, and twentieth century postcards, as well as new photography from artists Lynne Kerr and Rob Southerland. Musical selections include “On a Clear Day You Can See Forever” and “Every Road Leads Back to You.”

The road is not long. Self-consciously borrowing a village block from County Route 153, starting at the Community Courthouse Center, past McCartee’s Barn and the Brick Church that is the theater that once was a fort, past the eclectic Salem Art Works, cornfields and pastures, meandering up to the Battenkill Creamery and past the magnificent fields and barns of Gardenworks, through the sleepy neighborhoods of West Hebron and Belcher, with a stop off at the Taylor Brewery, more cows and corn and the Log Village and Grist Mill Wedding Barn (and yurts), Route 30 provides Washington County with visual arts, live theater and music, refreshment, sustinence, and outstanding views. This multimedia presentation of art, artists, and agriculture, with a live musical accompaniment, will tell you stories you may not  know and show you sights you may have missed.

It ties to the landscape the artwork of local artists including Heather Bellanca, Elizabeth Cockey, Peter Hanks, Jon Katz, Lynne Kerr, Tom Kerr, James Howard Kunstler, Dave O’Keefe, Harry Orlyk, Adam Shulman, Dan Shulman, Gretchen Dow Simpson, Bob Skinner, SH Smith, and Rob Southerland.

Through the hard work and inspiration of eighteenth century Scottish immigrants, who found the local landscape similar to their native hills and fields, the land that surrounds Route 30 has been farmed for over two hundred years. One structure, still standing as a residence at the intersection of Route 30 and McKinney Road, was licensed by the Town of Salem as a tavern in the late 1780’s, several years after it first opened its doors to locals and travelers alike, in the shadow of the geographical midpoint between the cities of Manhattan and Montreal.

In this encore presentation that entertained two sold-out crowds in mid-September, Gardenworks’s Rob Southerland will pass among the crowd Native American artifacts unearthed from the Black Creek Valley in a dig in the late twentieth century. Fort Salem’s Lynne Kerr sings “Every Road Leads Back to You” and “On a Clear Day You Can See Forever” accompanied by images that dramatically make her point clear.

*Route 30: Art and Agriculture,* benefitting the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce Crisis Fund, will be presented at Fort Salem Theater, 11 East Broadway in Salem, on Saturday, November 4, 2017, at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 7 PM. $15 tickets are available at the Glens Falls National Bank, Salem Hardware, and McCartee’s Barn, or by calling the theater’s box office at (518) 854-9200. More information at *[fortsalemtheater.com](http://fortsalemtheater.com)* on the theater’s homepage.