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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **The Open Eye Theater Presents**

### **“Dan Who?”**

#### **A Tribute to, and Celebration of, Dan Berkowitz and His Plays**

The Open Eye Theater will present “*Dan Who?*” *A Weekend Celebration of Dan Berkowitz and His Plays*, Saturday evening, July 29 and Sunday afternoon, July 30, at the theater located at 960 Main Street, Margaretville, NY. Curtain time is 7:00 p.m. on July 29, 3:00 p.m. on July 30, with refreshments and a toast to Dan following each performance. Ticket price is Pay-What-You-Can with \$15 the suggested ticket price.

The two-day event will feature readings of eight short plays written by Berkowitz, an accomplished playwright, producer, longtime friend, and benefactor of The Open Eye Theater. His plays convey a unique sense of irony, wit, and pathos, as well as examining relationships, life, and loss.

“We’re delighted to honor Dan’s creative contribution to The Open Eye Theater and his commitment to nurturing other playwrights, by highlighting some of his works,” says Amie Brockway, The Open Eye Theater’s Artistic Director. “This is our way of commemorating and paying tribute to an extraordinary and highly talented theater professional.”

#### ***About Dan***

As a student at Princeton University, New Jersey-born Berkowitz acted, directed, and produced seasons at the student-led Theatre Intime. He also became involved with the McCarter Theater, a professional regional theater, where he met Amie Brockway, The Open Eye Theater’s artistic director.

While in Princeton, Dan traveled in theatrical and literary circles which included Peter (Jaws) Benchley, George Goodman, aka Adam Smith on PBS, Joyce Carol Oates, and other luminaries.

Berkowitz subsequently moved to New York City, becoming Associate Producer of the David Suskind Show. Brockway, who was Associate Artistic Director of Theater of The Open Eye at the time, invited him to join the Theater’s Board of Trustees, where he became acquainted with Artistic Director Jean Erdman and her husband Joseph Campbell --the renowned mythologist-- co-founders of Theater of The Open Eye.

In time, Berkowitz became Chairman of the Board. During his tenure, he produced, directed and served as emcee for the theater’s spectacular Cabaret Fundraisers and also brought a play by Joyce Carol Oats to the theater.

Berkowitz moved to L.A. in the 1990s, where he co-directed The Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights, a support and service organization for playwrights, whose membership now spans the globe. He was a

writer for television and film projects, as well as a playwright with productions in more than 40 U.S. states and Canada.

In L.A. Berkowitz continued to be a resource for The Open Eye, contributing plays to the theater's "Summer Shortcuts" series, and encouraging ALAP members to submit their work. Since then, several ALAP plays have been produced in the "Summer Shortcuts" series.

Berkowitz last visited Margaretville in summer, 2016 serving as Emcee for the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of Jean Erdman, the theater's founder. He passed away in Los Angeles on December 16, 2019.

### ***"Dan Who?" Plays***

Plays to be presented include, in order of appearance:

#### Part I. Saturday July 29

**The Twinkie Defense:** A lifelong habit makes a health crisis manageable.

**A Lovely Little Life:** Two women reminisce about their 49 years together. But will they make it to 50?

**A Table in Siberia:** A couple's favorite restaurant serves as a character to launch memories.

**Places Please:** It's two minutes to curtain time and a key cast member rushes in with more drama behind the curtain than on stage.

#### Part II. Sunday July 30

**My Little Brother:** A monologue about sibling rivalry with an unexpected ending.

**Silver Linings:** An aloof, introverted teenage girl and a hopeful, extroverted teenage boy discover similar losses.

**When Oprah Says Goodbye:** A surprise encounter and a common bond unite two roommates in a nursing home.

**The Memory Box:** As a man leaves this life, he is helped to realize that the empty box he is carrying isn't empty at all.

### ***About the Open Eye Theater***

The mission of The Open Eye Theater is to produce high quality theater performances and other educational programming for a diverse population in the Catskill Mountain Region and beyond - enriching the quality of life for theater artists, students, and audiences of all ages.

For more information, visit <https://www.theopeneyetheater.org>, email [info@theopeneyetheater.org](mailto:info@theopeneyetheater.org), or phone (845) 586-1660. The Open Eye Theater is located at 960 Main St, Margaretville, NY 12455, a 45-minute drive west of Woodstock, NY.



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