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## MoCo Arts High School Theatre Students Explore the Human Condition in Upcoming Play – *Our Town*



**Keene, NH** – Tickets are now on sale for MoCo Arts High School Play, *Our Town*, sponsored in part by Silver Direct. *Our Town* is MoCo Arts first High School straight play, and is being directed by popular Peterborough Players actors, Bridget Beirne and Tom Frey. This landmark American drama by Thornton Wilder will be performed in *The Founder's Theatre* at MoCo Arts Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

“Wilder asks the question, ‘Does anybody realize what life is while they’re living it- every, every minute?’ Seeing these young artists ask that question through their performances is incredibly moving,” states Director Tom Frey.

This Pulitzer Prize winning play first appeared on Broadway in 1938 and has since become Thornton

Wilder’s most frequently performed play, having been produced in theatres around the world to great acclaim. *Our Town* tells the story of a fictional small town, Grover’s Corners, New Hampshire, in order to tell us the story of every town, the whole world over. In fact, it has been stated that the play was actually inspired by the town and residents of Peterborough, NH. The fact that MoCo has decided to invite Peterborough actors to direct the play can be seen as a nod to Mr. Wilder and an acknowledgment of the importance of the piece to the Monadnock Region. Narrated by the “Stage Manager,” we follow the Gibbs and Webb families, residents of Grover’s Corners, through twelve years of life changes -- from the mundane, to the romantic, to the devastating. Through the young lovers Emily and George, their strong and loving parents, and the many other Grover’s Corners’ locals, Wilder delivers universal truths about what it means to be human.

“The play examines ‘the extraordinary ordinary’ - the everyday moments that, when stacked on top of each other, make a life,” says Director Bridget Beirne. “The profound simplicity of that idea is what makes *Our Town* continue to resonate.”

The students acting in the play are enthusiastic about the opportunity to tell this story and seem to appreciate the fact that it is quite different from any of the other productions they’ve participated in at MoCo. “I’m excited to be in the show because I think it sends a really good message,” says Elizabeth Stanish, a ninth grader from Gardner, MA who is playing Rebecca Gibbs in the play. “I can’t wait to bring it to life on stage.”

*Our Town* is being performed by MoCo Arts students 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Tickets are \$14 for general admission, and can be purchased at MoCo Arts, 40 Roxbury Street in Keene, or by calling (603) 357-2100. To learn more about this performance, or about MoCo Arts award-winning theatre program, visit [www.moco.org](http://www.moco.org).



*Transforming Lives Through Movement and Creative Expression*

MoCo Arts is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, multi-arts educational organization located in downtown Keene offering dance and theatre classes and multi-arts vacation and summer camps for children ages 18 months to 18+ years. As part of the educational process, MoCo Arts provides professional quality performance experience for students and family-friendly performances for audiences of all ages throughout the year. MoCo welcomes all students, beginners through advanced, and tuition assistance is available. MoCo Arts is sponsored in part by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information please visit MoCo Arts, 40 Roxbury Street, Keene, NH 03431 or [www.moco.org](http://www.moco.org)

*Photo caption: MoCo High School Theatre Students (from left to right) Kobe Hachey, Samuel Induni and Mia Hennem in rehearsal for their upcoming performance of "Our Town." Photo by Colleen Manzi*

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