

The Northeast Theatre

presents

Over the River and Through the Woods

Back Again by Popular Demand, the Italian-American Hit Comedy Opens July 26

By Joe DiPietro

Photos are available at www.thenortheasttheatre.us/PhotosOTR.htm

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Back again by popular demand, The Northeast Theatre opens its Fifteenth Season on July 26 with *Over the River and Through the Woods*, the Italian-American hit comedy about the modern dilemma of family versus mobility, a sweetly hilarious play appropriate for ages 10 to 100. *Over the River and Through the Woods* plays July 26 through August 13 at Performance Space at the Jermyn, 326 Spruce Street, 2nd Floor, Downtown Scranton. Purchase tickets at the box office Wednesday through Saturday after 3 p.m., by phone at 570-558-1515, or online at www.thenortheasttheatre.us. Professional theatre in the heart of Scranton.

What

Opening its Fifteenth Season on July 26, The Northeast Theatre presents the second revival of its acclaimed production of *Over the River and Through the Woods* by Joe DiPietro

Who

- Playwright Joe DiPietro is best known for his long-running Off-Broadway musical revue, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*.
- *Over the River and Through the Woods* is directed by Mary Ethel Schmidt.
- The cast includes New York actors Jeff Wills, Bob Ader, Marilyn Spanier, Nancy Ward and Amber Irvin, who are joined by Towanda actor, Joe Newbury.
- Costumes are by Julia Larnard-Newbury and Colleen Close also of Towanda
- Lights by Scranton designer Jim Langan
- Sets by award-winning San Francisco designer, Alan Curreri.

When and Where

- July 26 through August 13, 2006

- Wednesday & Thursday at 7, Friday and Saturday at 8, Sunday at 3
- Performance Space at the Jermyn, 326 Spruce Street 2nd Floor, Downtown Scranton

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
July 26: Pay-What-You-Can Night - Curtain at 7:00. Donation required, no set price.	July 27: Cheaper than a Movie Night: All Tickets \$5	July 28: Big Bargain Night: All Tickets \$10 (students under 25 are always \$5)	July 29: Opening Night. Curtain at 8:00 p.m.. Regular ticket prices. A reception with the actors follows the performance.	July 30: Curtain prices
August 2: Curtain at 7:00 Regular ticket prices	August 3: Curtain at 7:00 Regular ticket prices	August 4: Curtain at 8:00. Regular ticket prices	August 5: Curtain at 8:00. Regular ticket prices	August 6: Curtain prices
August 9: Curtain at 7:00. Regular ticket prices	August 10: Curtain at 7:00. Regular ticket prices	August 11: Curtain at 8:00. Regular ticket prices	August 12: Curtain at 8:00. Regular ticket prices	August 13: Regular

Admission

- **Regular ticket prices:** \$20 general, \$15 seniors over 60, and \$5 students under 25
- **Pay-What-You-Can Night**, July 26, any donation of \$1 or more buys a ticket
- **Cheaper Than a Movie Night**, July 27, all tickets are \$5
- **Big Bargain Night**, July 28, tickets are \$10 (students under 25 are always \$5)
- **Opening Night**, July 29, regular prices; includes a post show reception with the actors

Buying Tickets

Tickets may be purchased at the box office, Wednesday through Saturday 3 p.m. to curtain, by phone at 570-558-1515, or online at www.thenortheasttheatre.us

About the Play

The Northeast Theatre presents *Over the River and Through the Woods*, an Italian-American comedy about the modern dilemma of family versus mobility; a sweetly hilarious play appropriate for ages 10 to 100.

Celebrate Family

Joe DiPietro, who is also known for his long-running musical comedy hit, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, lovingly explores the dynamics of family in his sweetly hilarious play, *Over the River and Through the Woods*. The Northeast Theatre will present its acclaimed production of this hit comedy for the third time July 26 through August 13, 2006, featuring the same talented cast.

Over the River and Through the Woods is set in Hoboken, NJ at the home of Frank and Aida Gianelli. Their neighbors are also their in-laws, Nunzio and Emma Cristano, and all four share a grandson, Nick. Nick is single, lives in Manhattan and visits every weekend. They love each other, squabble about petty things, and try to figure out how to operate the VCR; a very familiar American scene.

The play opens as Nick is poised to make an important announcement. As the only remaining family member within an easy visiting distance, he has to tell his grandparents that he is taking a job in Seattle. They respond to this ultimate catastrophe with the ultimate solution: find him a girlfriend, and the story unfolds from there.

There is something so familiar and so true about this play, that laughter and happy tears compete throughout. Although the family of the play is Italian, they could be of any ethnic origin. It is life as we know it. A generation that grew up with horses in the streets, now looks at the computer in their spare bedroom and wonders how they had managed to live so long. They stare across the table at their grandchildren for whom a cross country jet ride has been normal for all of their lives. They love each other, but at the same time they are worlds apart. And when these two worlds need to communicate, the results, although almost painful, are also hilarious. Mr. DiPietro captures the sweet irony of this disconnect so perfectly that you almost feel you have been invited to step up on stage and join them for dinner. This extraordinarily truthful depiction grew from the playwright's loving observations of his own grandparents, and his affection for them infuses the play.

TNT regular Mary Ethel Schmidt directs (she appeared as Lettice in *Lettice and Lovage* and as Margaret in *Waiting for the Parade*) and the revival cast is the same as the original; the only difference being that the part of Kaitlin will be played by Amber Irvin (last seen as Marta in *Waiting for the Parade*). Returning to play their roles again are New York actors: Jeff Wills (last seen in *Operation Opera*), Bob Ader (who also played the Groucho role in *Legal Snarls*) and his wife Marilyn Spanier, and Nancy Ward. They will be joined by Joe Newbury of Towanda, who was last seen as Kringle in *Kringle's Window*. His wife, Julie Larnard-Newbury designed costumes with Colleen Close (together they are known as Stitch in Time Costumes), lighting is by Scranton designer, Jim Langan, and sets are by award-winning San Francisco designer, Alan Curreri.

Over the River and Through the Woods runs July 26 through August 13 at The Northeast Theatre, Performance Space at the Jermyn, 326 Spruce Street, 2nd Floor, Downtown Scranton.

Wednesday, July 26 is **Pay-What-You-Can Night** when there are no set prices and admission is granted for any donation of \$1 or more. Thursday, July 27 is **Cheaper Than a Movie Night** for which all tickets are \$5. Friday, and July 28 is **Big Bargain Night** with tickets priced at \$10 (except for students under 25 who always get in for \$5). Saturday, July 29 is **Opening Night** at regular prices, and a reception with the actors follows the performance.

Regular ticket prices are \$20 general, \$15 seniors over 60, and \$5 students under 25. Tickets may be purchased at the box office Wednesday through Saturday 3:00 p.m. until curtain, by phone at 570-558-1515, or online at www.thenortheasttheatre.us

About Joe DiPietro

Born in New Jersey in 1960, Joe DiPietro began his career by writing sketch comedy. In 1992 he teamed up with Jimmy Roberts to write the long-running off-Broadway musical, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, which has played in more than 150 cities since its debut on 43rd Street in New York. Mr. DiPietro also wrote a new musical, based on the 1926 musical by George Gershwin, *Oh, Kay!* which he titled *They all Laughed*. He recently had two off-Broadway hits running simultaneously, when he opened *The Thing About Men* at the Promenade Theatre in September 2003. He has received the 1997 William Inge Festival award for New Voices in American Theater, and the National Playwright's conference MacArthur award for comic writing.

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The Northeast Theatre is an Equity theatre company its fourteenth season of production. Plays in the past year have included Over the River and Through the Woods, Lackawanna Rails: 100 Years of Life in the Anthracite Valley, Silent Lives, The Woman in Black, Lackawanna Rails: Women Who Work, Kringle's Window, Rapunzel's Song, Waiting for the Parade, and Operation Opera. The Theatre received Best Play of 2004 for Legal Snarls and Best Theatre of 2005 from the Electric City Readers' Poll.