



The Cathedral
Church of **Saint John**
the Divine

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**METTAWEE RIVER THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS PERFORMANCE OF
TALIESIN - A MEDIEVAL WELSH TALE
AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE**

New York (August 2013) – The Mettawee River Theatre Company, under the leadership of Artistic Director Ralph Lee, continues its tradition of presenting a performance on the Close during the days that bridge summer and fall with the enactment of *Taliesin*, a medieval Welsh tale of sorceresses, kings and valiant heroes, on **Friday, September 6 – Sunday, September 8 and Friday, September 13 – Sunday, September 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, located at 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street).**

The story of *Taliesin* comes from a medieval Welsh tale of sorcery and court intrigue, in which the power of inspiration is accidentally bestowed on an unlikely kid, who can suddenly see beyond everyday reality, becoming *Taliesin* – “radiant brow,” inspiration for all poets in the Welsh bardic tradition. Mettawee’s production of *Taliesin* will incorporate a range of highly decorative puppetry, giant figures, masks and other works of art realized on many different scales in this celebration of transformation and imagination.

The production is designed and directed by Ralph Lee, with a score composed by Neal Kirkwood and costumes designed by Casey Compton.

Tickets are available for \$12 (adults) and \$6 (children and seniors).

About Ralph Lee & The Mettawee River Theatre Company

Ralph Lee—Cathedral Artist-in-Residence, Artistic Director of the Mettawee River Theatre Company, and impresario of Halloween parades—has been creating puppets since his childhood in Middlebury, Vermont.

The Mettawee River Theatre Company has been a center of Mr. Lee’s creative activity since 1976, when he became its artistic director. Mettawee’s productions are based on creation



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Myths, trickster tales, Sufi stories, legends, and folklore from the world's many cultures. Each summer, Mettawee gives performances in upstate New York and around New England, traveling to rural communities, most of which have no other exposure to live theater. Since 1984, the year Mr. Lee was appointed Artist-in-Residence at the Cathedral, Mettawee has capped their summer tour with performances on the Close.

For more than a decade, prior to his joining the Cathedral's Artist-in-Residence community, Mr. Lee contributed his theater skills to a number of the Cathedral's special programs and events. These included the annual Boar's Head Festival; performances of Bach's St. John Passion, a theatre piece based on the medieval wildman, which transformed the nave into a primeval forest; and Cathedral Artist-in-Residence Paul Winter's Mardi Gras "Carnival at the Cathedral." Since 1986, Mr. Lee and the Mettawee River Theatre Company have continued to bring music and animal characters to the Cathedral's Feast of St. Francis, and every October since 1990, Mr. Lee has staged the "Procession of Ghouls" as part of Halloween at the Cathedral.

The ingenuity, beauty, and timelessness of Mr. Lee's work have led to numerous awards, among them a New York State Governor's Arts Award for his contributions to the artistic life of New York State, which he received in 1996. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center held a retrospective exhibition of Mr. Lee's work in winter/spring 1998.

About The Cathedral

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. It is chartered as a house of prayer for all people and a unifying center of intellectual light and leadership. People from many faiths and communities worship together in services held more than 30 times a week; the soup kitchen serves roughly 25,000 meals annually; social service outreach has an increasingly varied roster of programs; the distinguished Cathedral School prepares young students to be future leaders; Adults and Children in Trust, the renowned preschool, afterschool and summer program, offers diverse educational and nurturing experiences; the outstanding Textile Conservation Lab preserves world treasures; concerts, exhibitions, performances and civic gatherings allow conversation, celebration, reflection and remembrance—such is the joyfully busy life of this beloved and venerated Cathedral.

The Cathedral is open 7 days a week from 7:30 AM – 6:00 PM. There is a suggested admission of \$10.00 per person. Please visit stjohndivine.org for more information and a schedule of public programs.

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