



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

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Photo courtesy of the Mettawee River Theatre Company

**THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE PRESENTS
THE METTAWEE RIVER THEATRE COMPANY AS THEY PERFORM
*OUT OF THE PAST: CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF THE METTAWEE JOURNEY***

New York (August 18, 2015) – The **Mettawee River Theatre Company**, Ensemble-in-Residence of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, returns to the Pulpit Green with *Out of the Past: Celebrating 40 Years of the Mettawee Journey*. The series of outdoor performances will include scenes and songs from four decades of Mettawee productions, including pieces that have never been performed at the Cathedral, on **Friday, September 11; Saturday, September 12; and Sunday, September 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, located at 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street).**

The Mettawee River Theatre Company, founded in 1975, presents original theater productions that incorporate masks, giant figures, puppets and other larger than life visual elements with live music, movement and text. These works draw on the myths, legends and folklore of the world's many cultures. *Out of the Past* features appearances by many beloved characters such as Aristophanes' gluttonous dung beetle, Brecht's forlorn lovers in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, and the two long lost brothers of *Valentyne and Orson*.



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The production is designed and directed by Ralph Lee, Artistic Director of the Mettawee River Theatre Company.

Tickets are available for \$15 (adults) and \$7 (children and seniors). For more information, please visit <http://www.stjohndivine.org/visit/calendar/events/families-youth/12949/mettawee-river-theatre-out-of-the-past>.

About Ralph Lee & The Mettawee River Theatre Company

Ralph Lee—Cathedral Artist-in-Residence, Artistic Director of the Mettawee River Theatre Company, and founder of the Greenwich Village Halloween Parade—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 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. Beginning in 1984, the year Mr. Lee was appointed Artist-in-Residence at the Cathedral, Mettawee has capped its summer tour with performances on the Close. 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 Blessing of the Animals, 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.