

Uncle Vanya, by Anton Chekhov (the David Mamet adaptation)

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Hank Roberts LIVE on Cello in Readers' Theatre's UNCLE VANYA

For their final production of the season, The Readers' Theatre is very pleased and proud to bring Ithaca audiences the David Mamet adaptation of UNCLE VANYA, by Anton Chekhov. Improvisational cellist Hank Roberts will play LIVE for all three performances.

The David Mamet adaptation is an up-beat, funny, and ultimately poetic version of an excellent story by one of Russia's beloved writers. According to *The Washington Post*, "The appeal of David Mamet's adaptation of the play lies not in its conceptual brilliance, but in the way that he has stripped away the theatrical artifice to cut straight to the soul of the drama."

The play runs **Friday, April 27th and Saturday, April 28th at 8pm, and on Sunday, April 29th at 6:30pm.** Performance readings will take place in the intimate setting of **THE SPACE, 700 West Buffalo Street** (at the corner of Court and Fulton, near the M/V Columbia Dock). **All tickets to UNCLE VANYA are \$12 with a reservation and \$15 without a reservation. Reservations are highly recommended since seating is limited. Reservations can be made by calling 607-217-6272.** Details are at www.thereaderstheatre.com.

For the past 47 years, **Hank Roberts** has created an extensive body of music as a composer and recording artist, and has collaborated and performed with world-class artists such as Bono and The Edge, Jeff Buckley, and Andy Summers. His rhythmic, harmonic, and emotional approach to the cello distinguishes him as a unique voice on the instrument and in the world of new music. In May 2008, his CD *Green* won the German Recording Critics' Award in the Jazz category, and his January 2012 release, *Everything is Alive*, on the same label features Bill Frisell, Jerome Harris, and Kenny Wollesen. Hank regularly tours and records with his trio, including drummer Jim Black and guitarist Marc Ducret, and with Bill Frisell's 858 Quartet.

The Readers' Theatre's production of UNCLE VANYA highlights seven local actors: **P.D. Shuman** (as *Vanya*), **Tim Perry** (as *the Doctor*), **Dave Dietrich** (as *Telegin/Workman*), **Peter Stein** (as *the Professor*), **Esther Herkowitz** (as *Marina*), **Amy Dittman** (as *Sonya*), and **Lauren Boehm** (as *Yelena*). This tragicomedy is directed by **Anne Marie Cummings**, Artistic Director of The Readers' Theatre, with the help of assistant director **Tim Mollen**, a director and actor from Binghamton. UNCLE VANYA is sponsored by **McNeil Music** and **Trumansburg Rotary Club**: local organizations pleased to support The Readers' Theatre.

Following all three performance readings of UNCLE VANYA, **Bruce Levitt, professor in the Department of Theatre, Film, and Dance at Cornell University, will give a 15-minute lecture entitled "Mamet Meets Chekhov."** Levitt will discuss the play and its modern interpretation by David Mamet. This lecture is free, and all are welcome to stay.

In UNCLE VANYA, a retired professor and his beautiful young wife return to the country estate left by his deceased first wife to find themselves, along with the other characters, overwhelmed by the stagnant inevitability of the rituals of their lives and class. Today, people of all ages can appreciate this beautiful and poetic play by identifying with the main character: Vanya. Vanya is a man who has worked hard his entire life, a man who feels he cannot live another day doing what he loathes for very little, a man who pines for true love (not the unrequited love he encounters), and a man who realizes he could lose everything he has worked for because of the fragility of his circumstances.

The Readers' Theatre of Ithaca is very pleased to announce that they have just received their 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization status. The ensemble focuses on performance readings of current, contemporary, and classic plays. As part of their mission, The Readers' Theatre brings low-cost theater to local audiences, allowing those who might not be able to manage the price of the average theater ticket to affordably experience quality theater. The actors of The Readers' Theatre focus on the written word and perform their characters to the fullest while referring to their scripts. They may utilize music stands and stools, but omit sets, interacting with one another in a black box setting illuminated with theatrical lights. Please see www.thereaderstheatre.com for more information.

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