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On the cover: J.C. Alten will return this year as “Mother Ginger” in the Catskill Mountain Foundation’s production of The Nutcracker, presented in partnership with Victoria Renaldi and Valentina Kozlova. For more information about this year’s performance, please see the article on page 6. Photo by Kristen Artz

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live music, comedy, performance arts, community events, games, local food and good company—Neil and Alexia Howard of Woodstock, New York officially purchased the historic Colony Cafe on August 3, 2015 and after nearly two years of hard work and tireless renovations, reopened the space on May 11, 2017. In the tradition of the classic American music halls, the all-new COLONY is an entertainment and dining space worthy of the Woodstock community and its history, with doors that open to members of all communities far and wide to create a home that many can find comfort and good spirit in.

“Woodstock is an incredibly artistic town with an amazing history and community of artists and musicians. We want to give them a new stage—a new canvas to work with, to create and inspire their audiences,” says new owner Neil Howard. “Woodstock has been our home for the last decade and when Lex and I thought of how living here has inspired us so much, and how the community has welcomed us throughout the years, we saw the rebirth of the Colony as our way of contributing and giving back to the people and the town in a special way.”

This Catskill Mountain landmark has been lovingly renovated and restored to ensure that not only the structural integrity of the 90-year-old building is maintained for another 100 years, but so the generations of patrons to come can enjoy the space in comfort as they become a part of its story.

“I hope everyone will be surprised and delighted at the many personal touches we’ve added to Colony, from the custom-built bar and stage to the fully equipped kitchen and beautifully tiled restrooms,” adds co-owner Alexia Howard. “Neil and I truly feel this space can only thrive on community, not committee … which is why we didn’t take any investors. COLONY will always be a business owned by locals, run by locals for the local community.”

COLONY maintains it’s virtuous love for local and national acts by presenting a handcrafted sound in a unique room, well equipped with a state of the art sound and light system. The atmosphere woos performers and patrons alike, creating a harmony of interaction and frequency that a venue should provide naturally.

COLONY has featured artists as diverse as Sean Rowe, Maria Muldau, King Crimson, Langhorne Slim, Tuba Skinny, Kool Keith, Rick Derringer, Daniel Bachman, comedian Chris Gethard, Bruce Katz, Lindsey Webster, and The Mammals (Ft. Mike & Ruthy). The catalog of musicians and performing artists spanning genres of all styles grows steadily, by providing weekends full of shows & events that cater to a plethora of tastes.

COLONY is equal parts classic and cutting-edge performing arts space nestled in the historic Catskill Mountain town of Woodstock NY. The 90-year-old building—a former hotel and café—has undergone a complete technical refurbishing, with state of the art sound and lighting and full gourmet kitchen and bar, while maintaining its original aesthetic charm. COLONY’s performance hall has hosted some of the finest local, regional and national artists in its near century-long existence, catering to the town’s rich cultural and artistic appetites. COLONY’s new owners and staff are looking forward to continuing that legacy and tradition of presenting a homely atmosphere where all are welcome to join in on the fun.

COLONY is located at 22 Rock City Road in Woodstock. For more information, please visit www.colonywoodstock.com.
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TICKETS GO ON SALE SOON AT WWW.CATSKILLMTN.ORG

This event is part of the Catskill Mountain Foundation 2018 Performing Arts Season and is funded by private donations.
Since October, a group of lucky children on the mountaintop have been practicing their prancing, dancing, and (of course) following direction as they prepare for the Catskill Mountain Foundation’s third annual production of The Nutcracker. Now a yearly holiday tradition on the mountaintop, each year’s production has been slightly different—and this year will be no exception—but they all capture the magic and wonder of the holidays in what may be the world’s most popular and enduring ballet.

The annual production is put together by former professional dancer and mountaintop resident Victoria Rinaldi, along with her longtime friends and dance colleagues Valentina Kozlova, Margo Sappington, and Hillary Jackson. The illustrious careers of these four women, both as solo dancers and collaborators, have taken them around the world and garnered them accolades from near and far. Valentina will once again stage the snow scene and second act, inspired by the Bolshoi Ballet production of her youth. The cast will also include some of Valentina’s internationally-recognized award-winning students. Margo will play the role of Auntie Drosselmeyer and Victoria will stage the party scene, the battle, the second act angels and Mother Ginger, cast from local talented children. Victoria and Hillary will share the role of the Mouse King. And Victoria’s husband, J.C. Alten, will once again get in on the fun, playing the role of Mother Ginger.

Training the Future Stars of Dance
Dance classes are really wonderful opportunities for all kids to have fun, get moving, learn to follow directions, and help manage their stress levels. But what happens when your child shows a real talent for dance, but you don’t live in or near a city that offers higher level dance training?

Until recently, if you lived on the mountaintop, the answer to that question was a difficult choice for some families. But if Victoria’s dream becomes a reality, she may soon be able to provide the kind of professional training needed for local kids who show talent, but need guidance to take their skills to the next level. She has already seen some of her students, who came to her for private one-on-one training, move on to great success.

A chance meeting at a ballet class in Saugerties brought her first student, Justin Valentine. “I was just trying to get back in shape,” she said, “and when I saw Justin, I knew he had potential but needed some more training.” Victoria agreed to work with him, and now he finds himself on the cusp of an illustrious dance career. In addition to training with Victoria, Justin has also studied

Fostering a Love of Dance
Over the years, this production of The Nutcracker has not only helped to usher in the holiday season for many on the Mountaintop, but it has also fostered a love of—dancing among many children in the area. Victoria has seen the interest in ballet blossom with each year’s production: this year there are two full casts who will be performing, all cast from local children. In addition, this year she started a Community Dance Class—this class has greatly enhanced the abilities of the performers. “I have really noticed that the level of attention and the ability to take musical cues during our Nutcracker rehearsals has improved this year, mostly due to the community classes,” says Victoria.
with Valentina Kozlova for over two years. From the Catskill Mountain Foundation’s Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center where he danced the Sugar Plum Fairy’s Cavalier to the stages of Russia’s Vaganova Institute and famed Mariinsky Theater, the Hunter-Tannersville Central School graduate has gone on to perform in The Kirov Ballet’s Nutcracker at the famed Mariinsky Theater and win medals in international competition including a bronze in Cape Town, South Africa; silver in Brussels, Belgium; gold for pas de deux at Spoleto, Italy; silver at the Valentina Kozlova International Ballet Competition in New York; silver in Sochi, Russia … as well as an invitation to study at the famed Vaganova Institute in St Petersburg. “He will probably be in a professional company next year,” says Victoria. Justin had an opportunity to perform in Berlin this year, but instead chose to come back to the Orpheum to again dance the role of the Cavalier.

After Justin came Freeda Handelsman and Orlando Harbutt, who have performed in previous Orpheum productions of The Nutcracker but who are now busy with their careers and studies, so they will not be able to return.

Freeda, who was Christmas Star & Arabian Dancer in last year’s production, spent the prior year studying on scholarship at Alvin Ailey’s professional program in New York City. Freeda had previously won admission and attended prestigious summer intensives at The Washington Ballet, JKO school for American Ballet Theater and Alvin Ailey. She is now on full scholarship at Cal Arts, one of the most eminent universities in the country for dancers.

Orlando Harbutt, last year’s Nutcracker Prince, is accomplished in not only ballet but also contemporary and hip-hop. In 2015, Orlando won a gold medal in the contemporary division at Valentina Kozlova International Ballet Competition. Now on full scholarship with Manhattan Youth Ballet, he has already been asked to audition for Juilliard next year.

Justin, Freeda and Orlando are just three of Victoria’s success stories. “It’s bittersweet,” she says. “The goal is for them to move on, of course, and I’d love to be able to do the same for other local kids, to help them develop dance careers.”

So who is next?

It very well could be 13-year-old Sydney Hensen. In the two-and-a-half-years since she’s studied with Victoria Rinaldi, Sydney has made remarkable progress in dance. Last year, she danced the role of Clara in The Nutcracker and was preparing to compete in her first international dance competition in New York City in June. This year, she will return as Clara, although as she progresses in her dance training, “I’m making the choreography harder and harder … she’s ready for it,” notes Victoria.

Sydney will be joined onstage with local dancer Justice Grant Leman, who has just recently started taking private lessons with Victoria. Victoria is very pleased with his progress, and is confident that he will be ready to dance the role of the Nutcracker Prince in this year’s production.

For Tickets

This production at the Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center in Tannersville is the place to be this year to see if yet another aspiring young dancer will make a leap from the Catskills’ world of dance to the professional dance stages of the wider world. There will be FOUR special performances of The Nutcracker this December: Friday, December 8 at 7:30 pm; Saturday, December 9 at 2:00 and 7:30 pm; and Sunday, December 10 at 2:00 pm. Tickets purchased in advance are $25 adults; $20 seniors; $7 students/children. Tickets at the door are $30 adults; $25 seniors; $7 students/children. Buy your tickets today at www.catskillmtn.org or by calling 518 263 2063.
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As the last of the leaves fall from our trees and colder temperatures (hopefully) spread throughout our mountains, November can be a great time to get outside in the Catskills, especially if you are a sportsman and can enjoy the hunting seasons that are available throughout the month. For hikers or other non-sportsmen, that means a few extra precautions, so be sure to read through our section on hunting season below so you are prepared, but it does not mean that you should not get out and enjoy the woods.

Do not just be prepared for hunting season though, November weather can be unpredictable, so it is best to plan ahead and be prepared so you can enjoy your outdoor adventures in the Catskill Mountains. Weather can change dramatically between the Hudson Valley and the summits, especially in months like November. What could be a light rain at low elevations can be freezing rain or snow at higher elevations. Wetness and dampness can also quickly escalate to hypothermia as it becomes more difficult to stay warm. Be prepared so you can be sure to enjoy your adventure.

Hikers, Walkers and Mountain Bikers, Be Alert During Seasonal Hunting Seasons
Bow season for deer hunting in the Catskill Park opened in October and continues through November 17. Rifle season for deer hunting begins on November 18 and runs through December 10. There are also seasons for turkey, bear, bobcat and other small mammals. For all the details about hunting seasons, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation maintains a website at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/65231.html with extensive seasonal information on all of the different hunting seasons, their geographic areas and additional information for both hunters and those who wish to recreate during the fall hunting season.

Hikers, walkers and anyone planning on being in the woods who is not a hunter, should always be aware of the hunting regulations in the area where they are recreating and should always wear blaze orange during hunting seasons to reduce the risk of any incidents. Don’t forget to watch your pets too! Dogs should be wearing blaze orange when they are in the woods with you during hunting seasons and should always remain under your control to avoid incidents.

Catskill Park Day Coming in February
Help Support the Catskills!
Organized annually by the Catskill Park Coalition, which is co-chaired by the Catskill Center, the 2018 Catskill Park Day will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 in Albany. This day is an opportunity for supporters of the Catskills to have their voice heard in Albany and to make a difference in the support and funding that the Park receives. For more information visit www.catskillcenter.org/advocacy or call 845 586 2611.

Catskill Center’s Erpf Gallery
Catskill Flora Quilt Show, a one-person show of Pat Clark’s quilts, continues at the Catskill Center's Erpf Gallery through November 4, followed by Utilitarian Art, opening November 18.

Pat Clark joined the Wiltwyck Quilters Guild (WQG) in 1980 and in the company of fellow quilters (and eventual friends) honed her skills. Pat served as the program chair of the guild for over 10 years. All the while, she continued to study the mechanics of quilting and shared her skills via demonstrations, lectures, special activities and workshops. She continues to be active in WQG as well as the First Dutchess Quilters and the Skyllkill Chapter of the Embroidery Guild of America (EGA).

Pat frequently enters shows and works on community service projects. Her work was named the “Best of Show in 2000” at the Wiltwyck Quilters Guild Show in Kingston for her hand appliqued and hand quilted piece “The Competition,” but she considers being inducted into the Catskill Mountain Quilters Hall of Fame in 1998, the brightest feather in her cap!

Utilitarian Art, will be on display in the Erpf Gallery from November 18, 2017 through January 6, 2018. It features beautiful functional items by local artists, all of which make great holiday presents!

Many of the products we use every day are not only useful, but beautiful. Homemade furniture, clothing, blankets, pottery, quilts … so many items we depend on for everyday use could be on display as art. To celebrate this sometimes overlooked art, the Catskill Center’s Erpf Gallery sent out a call for functional art and invited local artists display their work.

The Erpf Gallery is located at 43355 Route 28 in Arkville, NY. It is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. For more information visit catskillcenter.org/events or call 845 586 2611.
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Visit the Catskill Park’s Visitor Center
Looking for more information on your Catskill adventures? The Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center is located on Route 28 in Mount Tremper and is your gateway to Catskill Park, where you can learn about the vast outdoor recreational opportunities in the area as well as discover the Catskill Region’s communities and rich cultural and natural history.

The Catskill Interpretive Center is open seven days a week from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm and until 6:30 pm on Fridays. At the Center, you can explore the interpretive exhibits, gather information and speak with knowledgeable staff about the Catskill Park and region. You can visit www.CatskillInterpretiveCenter.org, call 845 688 3369, or email info@catskillcenter.org for more information.

The Catskill Interpretive Center is located at 5096 Route 28 in Mount Tremper.

The Catskill Conservation Corps
The Catskill Conservation Corps (CCC) offers the easiest way for the public to volunteer on a multitude of stewardship projects throughout the Catskills. The CCC’s goal is to provide quality volunteer opportunities to the public on projects that protect natural resources and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities in the Catskills. The CCC recruits and supervises volunteers to perform various stewardship tasks in conjunction with New York State’s efforts in the Catskills and the Catskill Park. To learn more about the Catskill Conservation Corps, find events and volunteer in the Catskills, please visit www.catskillconservationcorps.org.

Discover the Catskills Beyond the Crowds!
It is easy to find areas of the Catskills away from crowded destinations like Kaaterskill Falls! The Catskill Park offers over 300,000 acres of public Forest Preserve lands and there are plenty of places to enjoy the magnificence of the Catskills without having to wait in line! To make finding these alternatives easier, the Catskill Center has created a short guide to hikes, waterfalls, swimming holes and more for visitors to enjoy throughout the rest of Catskills. You can view that guide at catskillinterpretivecenter.org/hiking-and-camping-information.

Give Back to the Catskills
The natural beauty, the majesty of the mountains, the protection of the Catskill Forest Preserve, the region’s natural and cultural resources, all need your help! By supporting the work of the Catskill Center, you support: stewardship of our Catskill Park and its vast natural resources; the Center’s collaborative spirit as we convene, create partnerships and facilitate discussions that benefit the region; and the Center’s work to support education, arts and culture throughout the Catskills.

To support the work of the Catskill Center, become a member online through their website at www.catskillcenter.org/membership or donate by mail: Checks made out to the “Catskill Center” can be mailed to Catskill Center, PO Box 504, Arkville, NY 12406.

Jeff Senterman is the Executive Director of the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, a member of the Board of Directors for the American Hiking Society, was formerly the NY-NJ Trail Conference’s Catskills staff representative and was an Assistant Forest Ranger for the NYSDEC in Greene County. He graduated with a degree in Environmental Science from Lyndon State College and worked for several years in the Environmental Planning field in New England before coming back to New York. To learn more about the work of the Catskill Center in the Catskills, visit www.catskillcenter.org.
Tickets will go on sale soon: www.catskillmtn.org or 518 263 2063

Zvi Dance
Residency: January 1–January 21
Performance: Saturday, January 20 @ 7:30pm

Ballet Hispanico
Residency: February 5–February 17
Performance: Saturday, February 17 @ 7:30pm

American Dream
Tuesday, March 20 @ 1:00pm

Tickets will go on sale soon: www.catskillmtn.org or 518 263 2063
Setting as Character: Ulster County on Film

It's no secret that the Hudson Valley is home to countless Hollywood movie stars and producers—its lush and beautiful landscapes and proximity to New York City providing the best of both worlds. Though a handful of films have showcased the area over the decades, its cinematic footprint paled in comparison to other regions due to a flawed state program that didn't consider the Hudson Valley “upstate.”

But that's all changing. Last year, after significant advocacy from Ulster County Executive Mike Hein, New York State passed legislation allowing Ulster County and a handful of other left-behinds to finally compete for productions by offering the same 40 percent tax credit allotted to the rest of upstate New York. The legislation was signed by the governor in November 2016, and as a result the entire Mid-Hudson region is now included and will benefit.

Recent months have seen Ulster County evolving into a hotbed for major movie productions.

The 2017 film production season in Ulster County kicked off with a bang earlier in the year as Kingston welcomed legendary director and producer Martin Scorsese, who is serving as the executive producer of the feature film *Diane*.

A new feature film titled *Departures* starring Maisie Williams of *Game of Thrones* and Nina Dobrev of *The Vampire Diaries* attracted local attention as it filmed in uptown Kingston for over three weeks this spring.

This came on the heels of the comedy *Furlough*, filmed on site in Kingston and the Town of Ulster, including scenes at the Ulster County Law Enforcement Center and featuring Academy Award winners Whoopi Goldberg, Anna Paquin and Melissa Leo.

The dramatic increase in Ulster County's film production industry comes as a direct result of Ulster County's inclusion in the New York State Upstate Film Tax Credit program.

“'My goal is simple: to make Ulster County a hub for the highly profitable entertainment history,' Hein said. "It provides high value opportunities for our workers and low impact on our environment, while delivering millions to our economy.'

Hein said the impact is being felt already.

In 2016, film production companies spent $8 million in the Hudson Valley. Following the implementation of the film tax credit, film production spending approached that figure in the first quarter of 2017 alone.

Actor and director Mary Stuart Masterson, who thanked Hein for his tireless work in pushing for the tax-credit legislation, said the added 10 percent tax credit will make the Mid-Hudson Valley the go-to location for series television and film production.

“We have the locations, the talent, the workforce, and the amenities producers want when choosing where to base their productions,” she said. "Now, they also have the economic incentive to say 'yes' to the Mid-Hudson Valley.”

Laurent Rejto of the Hudson Valley Film Commission said his organization has seen a 50 percent increase in film production since the new film tax credits were implemented.
In October, Hein unveiled the Ulster County Film Finance Program to encourage more film, media, and television productions to select Ulster County as their filming location. An initial commitment of $8 million by four local banking institutions provides cash advances, bridge financing and loans, among other things, to film production companies to help grow the film sector locally and create more career opportunities for the county’s youth and industry professionals.

Now, the area is coming into its own as a destination for quirky and daring cinema, with productions ranging from micro-budget indies to studio comedies lining up to shoot there. With so much to look forward to, here’s a retrospective highlighting Ulster County’s cinematic past—and a few pictures to look out for in the future.

**Tootsie (1982)**
Director Sydney Pollack’s production team brought their all-star cast to Ulster County’s Hurley Mountain Inn to shoot an upstate bar scene in this 1980s comedic masterpiece starring Dustin Hoffman. The film garnered 10 Oscar nominations, and Jessica Lange won for Best Actress in a Supporting Role, her very first Oscar win.

**The Road to Wellville (1994)**
Adapted from T.C. Boyle’s novel and directed by Alan Parker, *The Road to Wellville* tells the story of Dr. John Kellogg (founder of Kellogg’s cereal), whose eccentric obsessions with physical health and wellness led him to open the Battle Creek Sanitarium in Michigan, where wealthy patients submitted to Kellogg’s bizarre prescriptions. The film was largely shot at the Mohonk Mountain House in New Paltz, which stands in for the sanitarium.

**Down to the Bone (2004)**
Before director Debra Granik launched Jennifer Lawrence’s career by casting the then-unknown 16-year-old in *Winter’s Bone* (for which Lawrence would receive her first Oscar nomination), Granik helped draw the world’s attention to the great character actress Vera Farmiga in *Down to the Bone*, a gritty indie shot all over Ulster County, including New Paltz, Woodstock, Kingston, Saugerties, and Bearsville.

**Higher Ground (2011)**
The directorial debut of Farmiga, which she also starred in along with her little sister, Taissa, is a gentle and very personal study of one woman’s evolving relationship with her Christian faith. Farmiga, an Ulster County resident, shot the film in Kingston, Ellenville, Stone Ridge, and Kyserike.

**The Better Angels (2014)**
Produced by revered auteur Terrence Malick, *The Better Angels* is a meditative pastoral that depicts the childhood of Abraham Lincoln and his complicated relationships with his mother and stepmother. Though it’s set in Indiana, the filmmakers chose to shoot largely at the Mohonk Preserve.

**Cold in July (2014)**
This acclaimed independent crime noir stars Michael C. Hall as a hapless East Texas family man whose life takes a dark turn after he accidentally kills a home intruder. Director Jim Mickle, a native Texan, chose to use Ulster County—Kingston, Esopus, Woodstock—as a stand-in for East Texas because of the similar terrain.

**The Ticket (2016)**
This speculative thriller shot largely in Kingston tells the story of a man who regains his vision without explanation, and starts to change for the worse.

**It Comes at Night (2017)**
Critics adored the slow-burn narrative and moody atmosphere of this provocative arthouse thriller. The story unfolds almost exclusively inside a country house, and that particular house happens to be in the Byrdcliffe Art Colony just outside of Woodstock.

**Growing Up Smith (2017)**
Another flick shot entirely in Kingston, this coming-of-age family film revolves around Sam, a 10-year-old Indian boy growing up in small town America in 1979.

**Stray Bullets (2017)**
Written and directed by 16-year-old wunderkind Jack Fessenden (with a little help from his father, veteran indie filmmaker Larry Fessenden), *Stray Bullets* follows two teenage boys who accidentally collide with a group of armed robbers on the run. Filmed across Ulster County, in Stone Ridge, Rosendale, Kingston, Woodstock and West Shokan.

**COMING SOON**
**A Vigilante**
Olivia Wilde plays The Woman, an avenging angel who helps victimized women escape their abusers. Judging from the advance press material, *A Vigilante* looks to be a powerful showcase for Wilde’s impressive range. Shooting wrapped in the spring.

**Diane**
Shot in Ulster County earlier this year, it’s directed by film historian Kent Jones, who most recently made the exceptional documentary *Hitchcock/Truffaut*.

**Furlough**
This comedy starring Goldberg, Paquin and Stone Ridge resident Leo tells the story of a rookie corrections officer charged with managing an unruly prison inmate during a weekend furlough. Shot in Kingston, Port Ewen, and the town of Ulster.
GOING IT ALONE: A THOUGHTFUL LOOK AT SOLO HIKING

By Heather Rolland

From Rip Van Winkle to Christopher McCandless, the tradition of solo hiking is well established—and often heavily criticized. Most sources, from guidebooks to websites, admonish hikers to eschew solo hiking. New York State’s Department of Environmental Conservation offers a hiking safety page on their website that urges hikers to “arrange to go with a group or at least one other person.” This is by far the safest and wisest way to enjoy day hiking or overnight trips in the forest … and yet for some hikers, the lure of the solo adventure is hard to deny.

I began hiking as a child. I was always alone; the kids in my neighborhood preferred riding bikes or playing games. I just wanted to be “in nature,” pretending to be with Ranger Rick in the Deep Green Wood. While exploring the woods, I found trails. I followed them, and thus became a hiker.

As an adult, I tried hiking with other people. Unfortunately, I’m a Type A hiker. I like to go. I like to keep moving and I like to cover ground. I also have a list of household chores awaiting me at home and quite literally: I don’t have all day. I tend to be a get-in-and-get-out type peakbagger. People shake their heads at me and think I’m missing out because I don’t stop to smell the bear scat. More than once friends have admitted that they don’t want to hike with me. Words like “race” and “death march” come up in their explanations. My first date with Tom was a hike. He kept up and didn’t complain so I married him quick, atop Twin Mountain on the Devil’s Path—and we completed our Catskill challenges together.

But truthfully, I prefer hiking alone. Being in control of every aspect of the day suits me just fine. And I don’t mind not having an audience for all the spastic things I do out there (falling in creeks, walking into trees, etc.). I love the sense of accomplishment that comes from bagging a couple of peaks alone. I don’t need to prove anything to anyone, but I suffer from a certain driven-ness of spirit that eggs me on, murmuring “You will not make it to the top.” But even more than being a competitive control freak, I’m still that little kid who wants my relationship with nature to be intimate and monogamous. Hiking is my church and my therapy, and I don’t want anyone in the room with me, whether it’s a couch or a confessional. I relish the time alone.

After completing the Catskill 35 with Tom, I remember thinking “I couldn’t ever do these peaks alone.” I remember being truly awed at the thought of bushwacking alone, and wanting that level of skill. I talked to other women that had done either all or most
of the peaks alone. The spark was ignited: I needed to learn more, but then I could do it too.

Tom needed help being convinced. He insisted on a GPS unit and at least 2 large dogs with me at all times. There were lots of behind the scenes discussions: fervent pleas to be careful, sensible, and prepared. I always carried more than I thought I needed: extra headlamps, extra clothing, extra first aid supplies. It seems the more experienced a hiker becomes, the heavier the pack he or she carries.

Totally unpredictable things happened at the worst moments on my solo hikes. The GPS batteries died the one time I was really relying upon it. I lost my car keys deep in the forest on a bushwack of Rocky Mountain. I lost my compass on a bushwack of Halcott on a misty-cloudy day. I made a bad decision on a summer trip to North Dome and Sherrill, adding hours to an already long trip, trying to avoid the man-eating nettles. And I became terribly disoriented and lost on Doubletop. It was the most frightened I’ve ever been in the woods.

These mishaps did nothing to ease Tom’s pain. Or did they? After watching me get into and out of tough situations a few times, I think the problems, close calls, and truly scary moments only served to increase his trust in me. Things happen in the woods. You can’t prevent all of them so you have to know how to deal, how to shift to Plan B, how to repair or do without on the fly. Those are the valuable skills I gained.

I also got a bit banged up. I walked out of the woods a few times thinking about how to manage the ER visit with three dogs in tow, or how to drive with an arm/foot/leg that didn’t function, etc. Bangs and bumps freak me out worse than blood; I’ll take a nasty cut over a broken bone any day. During the year while I hiked alone, hikers died in the Catskills. That realization clobbered me like a hiking pole over the noggin: people die doing this. Is any of my knowledge or skill, nascent and mostly untested, a true protection from that?
Statistically speaking, the greatest risk to a solo hiker is a minor injury like a twisted ankle. These types of injuries are common, and can turn a simple day hike into an unplanned overnight in the woods. Uncomfortable perhaps, but not life threatening if you are prepared. Much less likely are the truly dangerous encounters with humans or wildlife. While many hikers fear coyotes or bears, these animals are much more likely to run from humans than interact in any way. The only thing I truly fear while solo hiking is other humans, and again, statistically speaking a truly dangerous encounter with another human while solo hiking in the Catskills is extremely unlikely.

I survived my solo round of the Catskill 35, and continue to hike solo frequently, cognizant of the potential risks. Solo hiking narrows your margin for error. How can you mitigate against that? A few sensible practices can increase your safety even while taking the risk.

- **Always sign in at every register you encounter.** Write your name clearly and make sure your contact information is legible. If you are a woman hiking alone, consider writing just a first initial and last name or just your last name.

- **Always leave your plans with a person who can be reached.** Indicate where you will start and end your hike and what route you plan to take. Then (and this is the hard part for someone like me) don’t deviate from that plan. Call or text your contact person once you are out of the woods.

- **Always carry more than you need.** Be prepared for an unexpected overnight in the woods. Headlamps, extra batteries, map, compass, cell phone, food, water, and warm clothes (including mittens and a hat) are in my pack year round. Extra wool socks too.

- **Carry a real first aid and repair kit.** Zip ties are very useful, as is duct tape. I carry a length of duct tape wrapped around a short stick. Consider taking a wilderness first aid course.

- **Always study the topographical maps for the area you’ll be hiking in before you go.** I never hike solo in an unfamiliar area. My knowledge of the woods and its inhabitants help me make safer choices.

- **Educate yourself about wildlife.** Most wildlife poses no danger to you at all while you are hiking. Bears, bobcats, coyotes and fisher as well as rattlesnakes are among the animals you might encounter. If you hike with a dog, carry pliers or a universal tool for porcupine quill removal.

- **Go with your gut.** I have driven all the way to trailheads only to change my mind once I get out of the car. If you get a creepy vibe, honor it and go do something else. Read Malcolm Gladwell’s *Blink* if you consider this intuitive nonsense—I really believe we pick up on dangers we can’t quite identify.

- **Consider hiking with a dog.** Dogs don’t offer failsafe prevention of all problems (and in fact often become problems themselves), but a dog can be a real deterrent for any crime of opportunity. Remember, wildlife poses almost no threat to human hikers, but pet dogs may pose a real threat to wildlife. Use a non-retractable 6 foot leash in the forest preserve and let your dog help keep you safe while you keep wildlife safe.

- **Don’t go solo in the winter or in winter conditions.** Winter increases the risks to an unacceptable level. The day length, temperature, hypothermia, dehydration … winter is not a time for messing around.

- **Consider a tracking app for your phone.** I have used Road ID’s e-crumb tracking program with success. It’s free and easy to use but for the map function to work it requires cell service.

Knowledge, skill, experience, and attitude are all key in being safe alone in the woods. Until you develop true expertise, hiking is safest in a small group with a knowledgeable and trained leader. The Catskill 3500 Club offers hikes almost every weekend, year round. Check out our hike schedule at catskill-3500-club.org/schedule.php

Heather Rolland is the president of the Catskill 3500 Club. She is a volunteer trail maintainer for NYS DEC and also volunteers for dog rescues and wildlife rehabilitation efforts. She hikes every day with her pack of Belgian and Dutch shepherds, posts as Catskillshalia on Instagram, and maintains the blog “Yoga Pants, Hiking Boots” on wordpress.
NOVEMBER AT THE CATSKILL MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION

Where the Performing Arts, Fine Arts, Crafts, Movies, Books, and Good Friends meet

PAT WICTOR, SONNY OCHS SONG NIGHT
November 18

THE SEBASTIANS
November 25

MOUNTAIN CINEMA

ORPHEUM FILM & PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
6050 Main Street
Village of Tannersville

DOCTOROW CENTER
FOR THE ARTS
7971 Main Street
Village of Hunter

NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

For the most up-to-date schedule, call 518 263 4702 or visit www.catskillmtn.org.

Ticket Prices (Screens 1 (in 2D), 2 & 3, and the Orpheum): $9 / $7 seniors & children under 11
3D Ticket Prices: $11 / $9 seniors & children under 11
View trailers for our films online at www.catskillmtn.org

STRONGER
(RATED R, 119 MINNS)
DIRECTED BY DAVID GORDON GREEN
STARRING: JAKE GYLLENHAAL, TATIANA MASLANY, MIRANDA RICHARDSON
The inspiring real life story of Jeff Bauman, an ordinary man who become a symbol of hope after surviving the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing. 11/3-11/12 Friday 7:30; Saturday 4:00 & 7:30; Sunday 7:30

“Bolstered by sterling turns from stars Jake Gyllenhaal, Tatiana Maslany, and Miranda Richardson, the film is a showcase for what Green has always been able to do so well, and what his actors continue to excel at.”
—Kate Erbland, Indiewire

VICTORIA AND ABDUL
(RATED PG-13, 111 MINNS)
DIRECTED BY STEPHEN FREARS
STARRING: JUDI DENCH, ALI FAZAL, TIM PIGOTT-SMITH
Abdul Karim arrives from India to participate in Queen Victoria’s golden jubilee. The two forge an unlikely and devoted alliance, and as their friendship deepens, the queen begins to see a changing world through new eyes. 11/17-11/26 Friday 7:30; Saturday 4:00 & 7:30; Sunday 7:30

“This funny, touching adaptation of Shrabani Basu’s 2010 biography has its own chemistry, withering wit and unsentimental message of acceptance. A royal treat.”
—Jamie Graham, Total Film

November 2017 • GUIDE 19
DOCTOROW CENTER FOR THE ARTS
7971 Main Street, Village of Hunter

THE UNKNOWN GIRL
(UNRATED, 113 MINS)
DIRECTED BY JEAN-PIERRE DARDENNE, LUC DARDENNE
STARRING: ADÈLE HAENEL, OLIVIER BONNAUD, JÉRÉMIE RENIER
A woman gets obsessed with the case of a dead woman after learning that the woman had died shortly after having rung her door for help. In French with English subtitles. 11/3-11/5 Friday 7:15; Saturday 4:15 & 7:15; Sunday 2:15, 4:45 & 7:15

“...a simple but urgent objective threaded with needling observations of social imbalance, a camera that gazes with steady intent into story-bearing faces, and an especially riveting example of one in their gifted, toughly tranquil leading lady Adèle Haenel.”

—Guy Lodge, Variety

BLADE RUNNER 2049
(RATED R, 164 MINS)
DIRECTED BY DENIS VILLENEUVE
STARRING: HARRISON FORD, RYAN GOSLING, ANA DE ARMAS
A young blade runner’s discovery of a long-buried secret leads him to track down former blade runner Rick Deckard, who has been missing for thirty years. 11/3-11/5 Friday 7:30; Saturday 4:30 & 7:30; Sunday 2:30, 5:00 & 7:30

“As bold as the original Blade Runner and even more beautiful.... Visually immaculate, swirling with themes as heart-rending as they are mind-twisting, 2049 is, without doubt, a good year. And one of 2017’s best.”

—Dan Jolin, Empire

KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE
(RATED R, 141 MINS)
DIRECTED BY MATTHEW VAUGHN
STARRING: TARON EGERTON, COLIN FIRTH, MARK STRONG
When their headquarters are destroyed and the world is held hostage, the Kingsman’s journey leads them to the discovery of an allied spy organization in the U.S. 11/3-11/12 Friday 7:00; Saturday 4:00 & 7:00; Sunday 2:00, 4:30 & 7:00

“This fleet-footed, glibly imaginative international romp stays on its toes and keeps its wits about it most of the time, with entertaining and pointedly U.S.-friendly cast additions.”

—Todd McCarthy, The Hollywood Reporter

LUCKY
(UNRATED, 113 MINS)
DIRECTED BY JOHN CARROLL Lynch
STARRING: HARRY DEAN STANTON, DAVID LYNCH, RON LIVINGSTON
The spiritual journey of a ninety-year-old atheist. 11/10-11/19 Friday 7:15; Saturday 4:15 & 7:15; Sunday 2:15, 4:45 & 7:15

“...an unassumingly wonderful little film about nothing in particular and everything that’s important.”

—Joe Leydon, Variety

AMERICAN MADE
(RATED R, 115 MINS)
DIRECTED BY DOUG LIMAN
STARRING: TOM CRUISE, DOMHNALL GLEESON, SARAH WRIGHT
The story of Barry Seal, an American pilot who became a drug-runner for the CIA in the 1980s in a clandestine operation that would be exposed as the Iran-Contra Affair. 11/10-11/19 Friday 7:30; Saturday 4:30 & 7:30; Sunday 2:30, 5:00 & 7:30

“Cruise is as compelling as ever with charm to spare, and this is a ceaselessly entertaining, sometimes tense romp.”

—Alex Godfrey, Empire

OTHER FILMS WE MAY SHOW

BATTLE OF THE SEXES
(RATED PG-13, 121 MINS)
The true story of the 1973 tennis match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs.

DADDY’S HOME 2
Brad and Dusty must deal with their intrusive fathers during the holidays.

JUSTICE LEAGUE
(RATED PG-13)
Fueled by his restored faith in humanity and inspired by Superman’s selfless act, Bruce Wayne enlists the help of his newfound ally, Diana Prince, to face an even greater enemy.

MARK FELT: THE MAN WHO BROUGHT DOWN THE WHITE HOUSE
(RATED PG-13, 103 MINS)
The story of Mark Felt, who under the name “Deep Throat” helped journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein uncover the Watergate scandal in 1974.

THOR: RAGNAROK
(RATED PG-13, 130 MINS)
Imprisoned, the mighty Thor finds himself in a lethal gladiatorial contest against the Hulk, his former ally. Thor must fight for survival and race against time to prevent the all-powerful Hela from destroying his home and the Asgardian civilization.
The Catskill Mountain Foundation presents

The Sebastians

SALZBURG
TO VIENNA
IN 100 YEARS:
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SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 25, 2017
@ 8:00 pm
DOCTOROW CENTER FOR THE ARTS
7971 Main Street, Village of Hunter

Tickets purchased ahead:
$25 adults; $20 seniors; $7 children
At the Door: $30 adults; $25 seniors; $7 children

Tickets Now On Sale at
www.catskillmtn.org or 518 263 2063

Sonny Ochs and WIOX Community Radio in association with Catskill Mountain Foundation present

Sonny Ochs
Song Night!

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Pat Wictor
~and~
Magpie

A Special Broadcast LIVE across Upstate New York and Pennsylvania on WIOX and WSKG, and around the world at
wioxradio.org ~and~ wskg.org

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2017
@ 8:00 pm
DOCTOROW CENTER FOR THE ARTS
7971 Main Street, Village of Hunter

Tickets purchased ahead:
$25 adults; $20 seniors; $7 children
At the Door: $30 adults; $25 seniors; $7 children

Tickets Now On Sale at
www.catskillmtn.org or 518 263 2063
The Catskill Mountain Foundation, in partnership with Valentina Kozlova Dance Foundation, Victoria Rinaldi, and Margo Sappington, is proud to present the THIRD ANNUAL production of the beloved holiday favorite

**The Nutcracker**

**FOUR PERFORMANCES!**

- **Friday, December 8** @ 7:30 pm
- **Saturday, December 9** @ 2:00 pm
- **Saturday, December 9** @ 7:30 pm
- **Sunday, December 10** @ 2:00 pm

The CMF Piano Museum is funded in part by the Jarvis and Constance Doctorow Family Foundation

Rediscover this extraordinary collection and its new positioning as a major venue for performance, music education and historical insights.

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Catskill Mountain Foundation is supported in part by the New York State Council on the Arts, Greene County Legislature through the Cultural Fund administered by the Greene County Council on the Arts, the Jarvis and Constance Doctorow Family Foundation, the Samuel and Esther Doctorow Fund, New York Council for the Humanities, Bank of Greene County Charitable Foundation, The Greene County Youth Bureau, Marshall & Sterling Insurance, All Souls’ Church, Stewarts Shops, Windham Foundation, and by private donations.

Special thanks to The Royce Family Foundation & Charles B. & Natasha Slutzky for their support of our dance programs.
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representing artists & artisans of the Northern Catskills

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TREES
PAINTINGS BY ANNIE BORGENICHT AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY CARLA SHAPIRO

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NOVEMBER 2017 MOVIES & EVENTS AT A GLANCE

| CINEMA 2 - FOREIGN & INDEPENDENT FILMS AT THE DOCTOROW | ORPHEUM - HOLLYWOOD FILMS AT THE ORPHEUM |
| CINEMAS 1 & 3 - HOLLYWOOD FILMS AT THE DOCTOROW |

Schedule subject to change: please call 518 263 4702 or visit www.catskillmtn.org for the most up-to-date schedule.

While there, sign up for e-mail updates so you can get the newest schedule delivered to your e-mail box each week!

### (F) NOV 3 (ST) NOV 4 (SU) NOV 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Film</th>
<th>Screen 1</th>
<th>Screen 2</th>
<th>Screen 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>4:00 &amp; 7:00 PM</td>
<td>2:00, 4:30 &amp; 7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>THE UNKNOWN GIRL</td>
<td>7:15 PM</td>
<td>4:15 &amp; 7:15 PM</td>
<td>2:15, 4:45 &amp; 7:15 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>BLADE RUNNER 2049</td>
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<td>4:30 &amp; 7:30 PM</td>
<td>2:30, 5:00 &amp; 7:30 PM</td>
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<td>STRONGER</td>
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<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>4:00 &amp; 7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>LUCKY</td>
<td>7:15 PM</td>
<td>4:15 &amp; 7:15 PM</td>
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<td>AMERICAN MADE</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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<td>STRONGER</td>
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<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>2:15, 4:45 &amp; 7:15 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>LUCKY</td>
<td>4:15 &amp; 7:15 PM</td>
<td>AMERICAN MADE</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMERICAN MADE</td>
<td>4:30 &amp; 7:30 PM</td>
<td>VICTORIA &amp; ABDUL</td>
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<td>4:00 &amp; 7:30 PM</td>
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### (F) NOV 24 (ST) NOV 25 (SU) NOV 26

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>THE SEBASTIANS</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>VICTORIA &amp; ABDUL</td>
<td>4:00 &amp; 7:30 PM</td>
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• Four complimentary tickets to the annual CMF fundraiser

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• Is the home of the Piano Performance Museum, a rare collection of historic playable pianos.
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Catskill Mountain Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation. All gifts are tax deductible as allowable by law.
2018 PERFORMING ARTS SEASON

CELEBRATING OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

Common Ground on the Mountain: A Concert of Folk, Bluegrass and Acoustic Music
Saturday, January 13 @ 8:00pm
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

Zvi Dance
Residency: January 1-January 21
Performance: Saturday, January 20 @ 7:30pm
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

Ballet Hispanico
Residency: February 5-February 17
Performance: Saturday, February 17 @ 7:30pm
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

American Dream
Tuesday, March 20 @ 1:00pm
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

Secret Music with Richard Kolb
Saturday, May 26 @ 8:00pm
Doctorow Center for the Arts

Academy of Fortepiano Performance
Residency: May 27-June 4
Performance Featuring Guest Artist Pierre Goy with Audrey Axinn, Maria Roas and Yi-heng Yang:
Sunday, May 27 @ 8:00pm
Doctorow Center for the Arts

OMNY Taiko Drummers
Sunday, July 1 @ 7:30pm
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

Catskill Mountain Foundation Annual Benefit
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!
Featuring A Mid-Summer Night’s Dream
Saturday, July 7 @ 6:00pm
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

Broadway in the Mountains
Residency: July 8-July 21
Performance: Saturday, July 21

SNEAK PEEK!
TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE SOON!
www.catskillmtn.org
518 263 2063

Left to right: Lea Gilmore, Common Ground on the Mountain; Zvi Dance; Sydney Hensen, American Dream
National Dance Institute
Mountaintop Summer Residency
July 9–July 21
Performance: Saturday, July 21 @ 7:30
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

Igudesman & Joo: A Little Nightmare Music
Saturday, August 4 @ 8:00pm
Doctorow Center for the Arts

Manhattan in the Mountains
Residency: July 29–August 19
Faculty Concert—The Right Stuff:
Saturday, August 11 @ 8:00pm
Doctorow Center for the Arts

TUSK: The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band
Saturday, August 18 @ 7:30pm
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

Perspectives Ensemble
Saturday, August 25 @ 8:00 pm
Doctorow Center for the Arts

The Gottabees: Squirrel Stole My Underpants
Saturday, October 20 @ 3:30pm
Doctorow Center for the Arts

Théâtre de l’Oeil: The Heart in Winter
Saturday, November 17 @ 3:30pm
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

Windham Festival Chamber Orchestra: Music of
Tchaikovsky, Elgar & Mozart
Saturday, November 24 @ 8:00pm
Doctorow Center for the Arts

The Nutcracker
Friday, December 7 @ 7:30pm
Saturday, December 8 @ 2:00 & 7:30pm
Sunday, December 9 @ 2:00pm
Orpheum Film & Performing Arts Center

No Strings Marionettes Company: The Hobbit
DATE TBA
Doctorow Center for the Arts

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www.catskillcenter.org

Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District
www.gcswcd.com

Hunter Public Library
www.hunterlib.org

Mount Utsayantha Regional Arts League (MURAL)
www.muralartgallery.org

Mountain Top Arboretum
www.mtarboretum.org

Writers in the Mountains
www.writersinthemountains.org

St. Theresa’s Women’s Expo
www.st-theresas-womens-expo.org

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