

**The Hudson Opera House presents *I Got Sick, Then I Got Better*,  
A Performance with Writer and Comic Jenny Allen**

The Hudson Opera House will present a performance of *I Got Sick, Then I Got Better*, by writer and performer Jenny Allen on Saturday, June 6, at 8 p.m. *I Got Sick, Then I Got Better* is a funny and wrenching riff on one woman's adventures after falling down the medical rabbit hole. Comic and writer Jenny Allen (the *New Yorker*, *The New York Times*), treated for ovarian cancer in 2005, has been shaping and performing her monologue under the guidance of directors James Lapine and Darren Katz for the past two years. Tickets are \$15, \$12 HOH members.

Jenny Allen's profiles, essays and reviews have appeared for years in many magazines, including *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *New York*, *Vogue*, *Esquire*, and *More*. Recent essays appear in "Disquiet, Please!" a new anthology of humor pieces from the *New Yorker*, and in "Feed Me," a collection of essays about women and food. She is the author of a book of fables for grown-ups called "The Long Chalkboard," illustrated by her husband, Jules Feiffer. She helped originate the '80's comedy group *Serious Bizness* and has performed in productions of *Jules' Blues* and in readings of *Spalding Grey: Stories Left to Tell*. She produces and performs stand-up comedy evenings in Manhattan. *I Got Sick Then I Got Better* was first performed on *Martha's Vineyard* in the summer of 2007; since then James Lapine has been collaborating with Allen and with Darren Katz on shaping and expanding the material, under the aegis of *New York Theatre Workshop*. She has two children, Halley, 24, an actress, and Julie, 14, a ninth grader, as well as a stepdaughter, Kate.

James Lapine is both a playwright and a director. He has been nominated for eleven Tony Awards, winning on three occasions. His work has also been recognized with six Drama Desk Awards, an Obie Award, the British Evening Standard Award, an Olivier Award, and the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Mr. Lapine is perhaps best known for his collaborations as librettist and director with Stephen Sondheim: *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Into the Woods*, and *Passion*. With William Finn he collaborated on *March of the Falsettos* and *Falsettoland*, later presented on Broadway as *Falsettos*. Other Broadway credits include *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* Michel Legrand's *AMOUR*, the revival of *The Diary of Anne Frank* starring Natalie Portman, David Henry Hwang's *Golden Child*, and his collaboration with Claudia Shear, *Dirty Blonde*. He wrote the book and directed Disney's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, which premiered in Berlin in 1999 and ran for three years. He has written the plays *Table Settings*; *Twelve Dreams*; *Luck, Pluck, and Virtue*; *The Moment When*; and *Fran's Bed* which starred Mia Farrow. For the NY Shakespeare Festival, Mr. Lapine directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *King Lear* starring Kevin Kline. Mr. Lapine has directed the films *Impromptu* (with Hugh Grant and Judy Davis), *Life With Mikey* (with Michael J. Fox) and *Earthly Possessions* (with Susan Sarandon), as well as the television productions of *Into The Woods* and *Passion*.

Darren Katz is director of the current national touring company of *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual*

*Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Other recent directing credits include *Happy Sunshine Kung Fu Flower* (Zipper Factory); workshops of *Falling* by Hyeyoung Kim and Dina Gregory and *A Day With a Thousand Faces* by Tarik Davis; and readings of *Grand Delusion* by David Rock and *What's Really Nice* by Halley Feiffer (Second Stage). Darren is developing two new music-theater projects inspired by documented events in the lives of Lorena Hickok and Henry Darger: *Sunrise at Hyde Park* (written by Tom Wilson Weinberg and Peggy Stafford) and *The Henry Darger Project* (written in conjunction with NYU students at the Strasberg Institute). Darren has also directed numerous productions for the neo-burlesque entertainer Murray Hill at various downtown New York City venues. He was the Resident Director for the Broadway production of *Spelling Bee*, as well as the Associate Director for the San Francisco/Boston and the 1st national touring productions. As Assistant Director he worked with James Lapine, Michael Blakemore, Scott Ellis, Lois Weaver and Holly Hughes.

Hudson Opera House, built in 1855 as the City Hall for Hudson, is a non-profit multi-arts center offering numerous programs for adults and children, many of which are free. Funds from the performance help support these ongoing free programs.

For further information about this event or programs, please call the Opera House at (518) 822-1438 or visit the website at [www.hudsonoperahouse.org](http://www.hudsonoperahouse.org). The Hudson Opera House is located at 327 Warren Street.