



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact:

Barbara Turk
Family YMCA at Tarrytown
(914) 631-4807
barbarat@ymcattarrytown.org

RIP VAN WINKLE WAKES UP HUDSON VALLEY!
Family YMCA at Tarrytown Collaborates with Huzzah
Productions to Present Staged Reading of an Original Play

Tarrytown, September 20, 2011– Y Theatre in collaboration with Huzzah Productions presents a staged reading of an original play, *Rip Van Winkle*, written by Jim Balestrieri, directed by Peter Royston, produced by Y Theatre, and featuring Michael Fox as Rip Van Winkle. Balestrieri and Fox are partners in Huzzah Productions, Barbara Turk and Royston are principals in Y Theatre; all are local residents.

A brand new theatrical adaptation of Washington Irving's classic tale of ghosts and goblins, magic and time travel among the Dutch settlers in the Hudson Valley, Jim Balestrieri's *Rip Van Winkle* adds a new wrinkle to this timeless story, transforming Rip's 20-year nap into a lightning fast pageant of the American Revolution and the founding of the United States. With a cast of seasoned actors and local children, this one-hour comedy is sure to delight young and old alike.

The readings will take place on Friday, October 21 (3rd Friday) at 7:30 pm at Christ Episcopal Church, 43 S Broadway in Tarrytown, and Sunday November 20 at 4:30 pm at Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns on N Broadway. Donations support financial aid for underserved children in the Y Summer Shakespeare Camp.

"The Family YMCA at Tarrytown is dedicated to nurturing the potential of children and adults in our community, promoting healthy living and fostering a sense of social responsibility through our many programs, services and events," said Barbara Turk, Vice President of Marketing and Community Development. "This collaboration strengthens our commitment to the performing arts and exposes our theatre students and our whole community to creative new material mined from Hudson Valley lore and myth."

About Huzzah Productions

Huzzah Productions, founded by Tarrytown residents Jim Balestrieri and Michael Raymond Fox, was established to create original works of theater through innovative writing and staging. Our plays for adults will stimulate; our plays for young people will appeal to

audiences of all ages. Many works will draw on the history and lore of the Hudson Valley. Huzzah's mission is to challenge the imagination and remind us of the richness of the place we call home.

About the Y

The Y is one of the nation's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the U.S., 2,687 Ys engage 21 million men, women and children – regardless of age, income or background – to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors.

Anchored in Tarrytown, the Family YMCA at Tarrytown serves close to 4000 members and has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. Y Theatre offers children and adults performance opportunities throughout the year, through its free after school theatre program at Washington Irving School, funded by the Foundation for the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns, the Miles Hodsdon Vernon Foundation, St Faith's House Foundation, and the EPTA of the Tarrytowns; its Adult Theatre Troupe; and Summer Shakespeare Festival camp for youth and teens. For more information, contact Barbara Turk at Barbarat@ymcatarrytown.org or (914) 631-4807.

###