

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Annual Civil War Heritage Music Gathering & Encampment presents:

OLD TIME 1948 RADIO PLAY

“YOU ARE THERE” APRIL 9, 1865 – LEE & GRANT at APPOMATTOX

Adapted from history-based dramatizations by the CBS Documentary Unit (1947-1950)

CENTRE CHURCH – WINDHAM, NY, FRIDAY – AUGUST 5, 2016 – SHOW TIME 7 PM

Inspired by the iconic “YOU ARE THERE” nationwide broadcasts of the 1940s that brought key moments in American history to life. We will re-enact what the ON AIR “YOU ARE THERE” November 1948 production may have been like through a “radio theatre” format. The audience will be transported back in time at the Centre Church’s WRIP studio and be invited to immerse themselves completely in this unique radio theatre experience. A small group of actors and musicians supported by on-the scene reports, multi-media portraits, music selections, period commercials and sound effects will bring to life the characters and events that brought an end to four years of civil war and began the healing of a nation.

In the 1940s, radio was the leading form of popular entertainment. In the spirit of such popular programs as “The Shadow”, “Lights Out”, “Johnny Dollar” and documentary dramas such as “YOU ARE THERE” the various music groups/artists and Company of reenactors will perform a live 1940s style radio show on the stage. Radio was truly the “Theatre of the Mind.”

The CBS “YOU ARE THERE” broadcast was the forerunner in a long line of experiments in documentary radio. In this case, it was posited that it might be both instructive as well as compelling radio drama to dramatize historic events as they might have been covered by a modern News Bureau and its far-flung resources. The play employs on-the-scene reporters, correspondents, and person- to- person-on-the-street types of interviews with the Union and Confederate Generals who participated in the historic events at Appomattox Courthouse. Portrayals include Generals Grant, Lee, Custer, Sheridan, Longstreet, Wise, Porter and others. Audience members will be transported back in time at typical 1940s radio station. During its on air run the YOU ARE THERE series stood at the side of Christopher Columbus as he planted the flag of Spain on America’s shore, attended a witch hunt in Salem and went to Ford’s Theatre on the night of April 14, 1865 and became a witness to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. CBS went on to create a total of sixty-four unique radio docu-dramas during the program’s three-year run. Many of the scripts were so accurate and realistic that were used verbatim for the television series that aired from 1953-1958.

The play's producer, John Quinn directed the highly successful "Sunset at Mt. McGregor" production in 2014 at U.S. Grant Cottage State Historic Site. That immersion play told the story of the friendship between U.S. Grant and Mark Twain. Tickets to the live theatre radio play are \$5. Early reservations are encouraged. For more information call 518-734-5655 or email jcquinn@webtv.net.