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FILM SCREENING:
“STAGESTRUCK: CONFESSIONS FROM SUMMER STOCK”

A nostalgic look back at American summer stock theater on Cape Cod
Wednesday, August 22nd ~ 7:30pm ~ Katharine Cornell Theater

Edgartown, MA – August 13, 2012 – The Museum, in collaboration with the MV Film Society, is excited to present a film screening of *Stagestruck: Confessions from Summer Stock* in conjunction with the Museum’s ongoing exhibit *Showtime: 100 Years of Theater on Martha’s Vineyard*. *Stagestruck* takes a nostalgic look back at America's first summer stock theater “in-the-round,” the Orleans Arena Theater on Cape Cod (1950–1976). The story provides an intimate look at a vanishing piece of Americana - summer stock theater and the straw-hat circuit.

Stagestruck employs dramatic re-enactments, historical photos, and engaging interviews with past residents of the Orleans Arena Theater that capture the day-to-day challenges and joys of the summer stock experience. More than fifty actors and actresses re-enact scenes on the grounds and the stage of the Theater to make the story come alive. Led by Gordon and Betsy Argo, an enterprising young couple determined to raise a family while providing a home for theater, the film also depicts the drama offstage — the result of cramped communal living, backstage love affairs, and the stresses of producing a new show each week.

Author and playwright Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (1921-2008), an Orleans Arena Theater alumnus, interjects humor and insight as he reflects on his time at the distinguished American theater colony and on founders, Betsy and Gordon Argo. During the film, Vonnegut explains, "People would work this hard for nothing. And they would, because that's theater." *Stagestruck* was produced, directed, and edited in 2012 by the Argo's daughter, filmmaker Liz Argo. She will provide a brief introduction of the film before the screening begins.

Stagestruck: Confessions from Summer Stock will be shown on Wednesday, August 22nd at the Katharine Cornell Theater on 54 Spring Street, Vineyard Haven beginning at 7:30pm. Admission is \$5 for Museum or Film Society members, and \$8 for non-members. *Showtime: 100 Years of Theater* is on display through April 20, 2013.

Visit www.mvmuseum.org for more information about upcoming programming and exhibits. The Martha's Vineyard Museum is dedicated to furthering an interest in, experience of, and appreciation for the history and culture of the Island and its environs. The Museum is open year round, 10am to 4pm Monday through Saturday. Admission is free to Members; admission for non-Members is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for children 6 to 15 and free for children under the age of 6.