“ETHICS IS A FORCE!”

Songs about Labor

Sung & Commented on by Performers from the Aesthetic Realism Theatre Company

With the philosophy Aesthetic Realism as their basis, these performers will show the meaning of the songs they sing—meaning for people’s lives right now—meaning that is vivid and tremendously, beautifully hopeful!

Eli Siegel, the great American poet and founder of Aesthetic Realism, saw, explained, and enabled others to see what America is really hoping for. He showed the true grandeur of unions! In his Goodbye Profit System lectures he said:

“The most important thing in industry is the person who does the industry, which is the worker…. Labor is the only source of wealth. There is no other source, except land, the raw material…. Every bit of capital that exists was made by labor, just as everything that is consumed is.”

And he explained:

“Ethics is a force like electricity, steam, the atom—and will have its way.”

The songs will include “Hold the Fort,” “Joe Hill,” “The Union Buster,” “Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?”—& many more!

Ethics Is a Force! was first presented this spring at the American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark as part of the Museum’s May Day Festival.

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“Ethics Is a Force! is thrilling. It had me see more the true power of labor—and how it can win!” —Steve Weiner, Executive Board, Local 2627, AFSCME

“A vital event—the greatest encouragement for everyone who wants justice for American working men and women!”

—Richita Anderson, President, Metro NY Chapter, International Association of Workforce Professionals

“Magnificent!—and I feel honored to take part in it. It entertains, inspires, and educates like nothing you’ve ever experienced!”

—Timothy Lynch, President, Teamsters Local 1205
What people are saying about

Ethics Is a Force!—Songs about Labor
A Presentation of the Aesthetic Realism Theatre Company

“It was great. Everyone was inspired!” —George Tedeschi, President, GCC, IBT

“It wasn’t just great entertainment—it brought you into the emotion and meaning of the words. It stays with you. I want to use it for Union organizing. Everyone needs to see this!” —Roberta Dunker, President, Teamsters Local 693

“The Aesthetic Realism Theatre Company educated everyone. Their musical performance and spoken word were both enlightening and inspiring....I sincerely hope that the performers will be able to return again next year.”
—Angelica Santomauro, Executive Director, American Labor Museum, co-sponsor of Ethics Is a Force! at the Museum’s May Day Celebration in ’04, ’05, ’06 & ’07.

“You made our conference a success!” Richard Sheehan, President, Teamsters Local 802

“We should bring this program into our schools so that kids get an idea of the meaning of the labor movement. This is a tremendous thing you’re doing. It was very moving.” —Dennis Raymond, President, Teamsters Local 677, Waterbury, Conn. & Chairman for the Bakery and Laundry Conference USA & Canada

"This should go out to all the members everywhere because they would be so inspired. They need this. We all do, but I wish all of them could hear it.
—Vito Dragone, Jr. Secretary-Treasurer, Teamsters Local 491, Uniontown, PA

“I’ve told so many people about this program. I like everything they did, especially ‘Joe Hill.’ The message was outstanding!”
—Moses Greene, New York State Attendance Teachers Association

“Through song after song—rousing, tearful, funny, surprising—the answer to economic injustice here and abroad is given....This event is urgently needed!
—Alice Bernstein, syndicated columnist

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"It was fantastic! We were entertained and educated."
—George Boncoraglio, President, CSEA, NYC

"We were delighted to have the Aesthetic Realism Theatre Company provide a terrific and exhilarating performance as a kick-off to Arts Day in Albany [March 6, 2007], where celebrities, legislators, and arts leaders from around the state gathered."
—Judith Weiner, Executive Director, Alliance of New York State Arts Organizations

“I like Eli Siegel’s ideas!” —Studs Terkel, Pulitzer Prize-winning author

www.AestheticRealismTheatreCo.org