SAG HARBOR CINEMA

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THE WORLDS OF JULIE ANDREWS EXHIBIT AND *MARY POPPINS* SCREENING

Featuring a Q&A with Julie Andrews on October 2nd

SAG HARBOR, NY - Julie Andrews returns to Sag Harbor Cinema with a screening of *Mary Poppins* as part of the yearlong retrospective in her honor and the Kids and Families Matinees series. The screening will take place on October 2nd at 4pm and will be followed by a Q&A with Ms. Andrews, moderated by Founding Artistic Director Giulia D'Agnolo Vallan. The retrospective also includes *Julie and Tony*, an exhibit situated on the Cinema's third floor, featuring personal correspondences, rare sketches, and objects related to the artistic collaboration between Andrews and her first husband, esteemed production designer, Tony Walton. Many of the items on display in the exhibit relate to their first collaboration, *Mary Poppins.*

"*Mary Poppins* is a work of genius in so many ways – Disney's and his animators', the Sherman Brothers', Tony Walton's and of course Julie Andrews'. It is hard to believe that it was her first film. We timed the screening with the show upstairs – which was made possible by the generosity of Ms. Andrews and her family – so that our viewers can get a deeper insight of how effortlessly her brilliant creative process waves through her life. And they can read what Steve Sondheim thought of Disney's film! This is the first of two exhibits planned during the retrospective," says Artistic Director Giulia D'Agnolo Vallan

Miss Andrews and Tony Walton met in 1949, at the ages of 13 and 14, respectively. She was performing in the title role of Emile Littler's Eighth Annual London Pantomime of *Humpty Dumpty* and Tony attended with his brother, Richard, and a friend. The Waltons were from the same town as the Andrews family—Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, England—and when the boys found themselves on the same train home as Julie that evening, they introduced themselves and asked for an autograph. The following day, Tony and Richard looked up every Andrews family "on the other side of the railroad tracks" (where Julie had told them she lived) and paid a visit to her. Soon after, Tony wrote a letter to Julie from his boarding school and a correspondence, followed by a courtship, began.

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Tony and Julie married in 1959, and in 1962 Julie gave birth to their daughter, Emma. During the run of *Camelot* on Broadway, Walt Disney attended a performance and visited Julie backstage, where he offered her the opportunity to make her film debut as Mary Poppins in his upcoming film adaptation of P.L. Travers' famous books. Tony was pursuing a career as a scenic and costume designer. Disney asked to see his portfolio and subsequently offered him the job of designing the costumes and interiors for the film. *Mary Poppins* was Julie and Tony's first professional collaboration.

In her second autobiography *Home Work*, which Julie co-wrote with her daughter Emma, she details the work that Tony's design played in the characterization of Poppins, "Walt had purchased the rights to the book, but not to Mary Shepard's illustrations, so Tony's costumes had to be completely original, yet still evoke the spirit of the characters that P. L. Travers had created. The time period of the film had been changed from the 1930s to 1910s, as Walt felt that late Edwardian England would provide richer visual opportunities, and Tony agreed.

"I was awed by my husband's attention to detail: his choice of materials, colors, and accessories, like Mary's loosely hand-knitted scarf, or her iconic hat with the sprightly daisy on top. While supervising my fittings, Tony pointed out hidden touches like the primrose or coral linings of Mary's jackets, or her brightly colored petticoats.

"'I fancy that Mary has a secret inner life,' he explained, 'and when you kick up your heels, you'll catch a glimpse of who she is beneath her prim exterior.'"

Although the couple divorced in 1968, and both remarried—Julie to director Blake Edwards and Tony to author Gen LeRoy—they remained close friends. Because they lived on opposite coasts, Emma traveled back and forth between them. Determined to preserve their family connection, Julie suggested that she and Emma write stories together that Tony could illustrate. The first of these was a story titled *Charlie the Englishman*, which Julie had bound for Emma as a memento, and which many years later became the inspiration for their children's book *Simeon's Gift*.

Julie and Emma's first children's book together was published in 2000—*Dumpy the Dump Truck*, inspired by Emma's young son Sam's love of trucks. The *Dumpy* books are set in the fictitious town of Apple Harbor, an amalgam of Sag Harbor and the U.K. Channel Island of Alderney where Julie and Tony had a holiday home. Julie and Emma asked Tony to illustrate the series, which consists of five picture books, four leveled readers and two board books.

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In 2003, Julie was invited by Bay Street Theater—which was co-founded by Emma, her husband Stephen Hamilton, and Sybil Christopher—to make her directorial debut with a production of Sandy Wilson's *The Boy Friend*, which was the show that had first brought Julie Andrews to Broadway at the age of 19. Julie asked Tony to design the Bay Street production, which subsequently transferred to the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, CT and then went on National Tour.

In 2006, Julie and Emma published *The Great American Mousical*, a middle-grade novel about a troupe of theater mice, and Tony once again illustrated. The book was subsequently adapted into a stage musical with music by Zina Goldrich, lyrics by Marcy Heisler and book by Hunter Bell, which had its world premiere in 2012 at Goodspeed, directed by Julie and designed by Tony. The show was subsequently further developed and received a staged reading, directed by Julie and featuring Emma's daughter Hope, at Bay Street in August, in anticipation of a full production next year at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Los Angeles.

Tony and Julie remained close friends until his passing in March of 2022. This exhibit features memorabilia from their personal collections as well as that of Emma Walton Hamilton.

Tickets for the screening are available at sagharborcinema.org.
Visiting hours of Julie and Tony are Monday-Friday 5pm to closing; Saturday and Sunday 12pm to closing.

For more information on the film, see below:

MARY POPPINS
Dir. Robert Stevenson
USA, 1964; 143 mins, in English
Rated G

"Practically Perfect In Every Way" Mary Poppins (Julie Andrews) flies out of the windy London skies and into the home of two mischievous children. With the help of a carefree chimney sweep named Bert (Dick Van Dyke), the spirited nanny turns every chore into a game and every day into a "Jolly Holiday" to reconnect the children with their parents.

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About the Sag Harbor Cinema

SAG HARBOR CINEMA

As a not-for-profit 501(c)3, community-based organization, Sag Harbor Cinema is dedicated to presenting the past, present and future of the Movies and to preserving and educating about films, filmmaking, and the film-going experience in its three state-of-the-art theaters. The Cinema engages its audiences and the community year-round through dialogue, discovery, and appreciation of the moving image – from blockbusters to student shorts and everything in between. Revitalized and reimagined through unprecedented community efforts to rebuild the iconic Main Street structure after a fire nearly destroyed it in 2016, SHC continues a long historic tradition of entertainment in the heart of Sag Harbor Village. SHC Members enjoy discounts on tickets and merchandise and can purchase food and drink at our concession stand, cafe, as well as our member-only rooftop lounge, The Green Room.