



# Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



## 2016 CVNHP Local Heritage Grant

### Farming Plays Project

#### Project Summary

Utilizing a 2016 CVNHP Local Heritage Grant, Hubbard Hall Center for the Arts and Education partnered with the Agricultural Stewardship Association and Young Playwrights' Theater of Washington, DC, to implement a series of creative writing workshops in public schools throughout Washington and Rensselaer counties and with farming families throughout the region on themes of contemporary farming life, history of the region and our connection to the land.

These workshops produced short plays, scenes and monologues that were then professionally produced for a regional audience as part of Hubbard Hall's Winter Carnival of New Work to showcase and highlight the importance of the region. The play, a tapestry of poetry, stories, scenes and monologues culled from approximately 20 hours of interviews and over 60 hours of free workshops in Cambridge, Greenwich and Hoosick Falls Public Schools, was performed by an ensemble of ten local artists, including members of the farming community. Running approximately 55 minutes, each performance was accompanied by a post-show discussion about issues found in the play and not found in the play.

The project's goals included engaging local youth in an in-depth discussion of issues and history relating to our region and our landscape, creating an original play based on these students' writing and engaging our local farming community to also write and contribute personal storytelling to the final project.

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