

Yeager productions, ltd.

300 west 55th street, suite # 15e, new york, new york 10019/ tel
(212) 245-0240

fax (212) 245-6576 / skype: DouglasYeager / email:
yeagerprod@aol.com

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Liz Thomson
The Village Trip
Washington Square Hotel
103 Waverly Place
New York, NY 10011

Subject: Letter of Support to The Village Trip

Dear Liz,

For five years, since our first meeting, I have observed your dedicated, caring and passionate effort to create a music, arts and culture festival to celebrate Greenwich Village and its century-long history of fomenting art culture in America. Congratulations on birthing *The Village Trip*!

For more than fifty years I have worked as an entertainment producer and artist manager, and a large percentage of that work involved Greenwich Village. At different periods I managed the careers of Odetta, David Amram, Oscar Brand, Richie Havens, Tom Paxton, Josh White, Jr., Bob Gibson, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, John Fahey and Cliff Eberhardt – all regular performers in the Village. In addition, while representing the estates of Josh White, Oscar Brand and Odetta, my archival research on their careers has led me to the rich history of Greenwich Village in the 1930s with the Café Society and the Village Vanguard where Josh White, Lead Belly, Billie Holiday, Zero Mostel and the Fletcher Henderson Orchestra, and The Revuers (with Judy Holiday, Comden and Green) would perform; to the 1940s, with Woody Guthrie, Burl Ives, Pete Seeger and the Almanac Singers, Oscar Brand, Jean Ritchie, Ed McCurdy, Dizzy Gillespie, Cuban Jazz and the birth of Bee Pop; into the `50s with Thelonious Monk, Mingus, Miles and the Beat poets of Kerouac, Lord Buckley and Allen Ginsberg, and the birth of Jazz & Poetry by Kerouac and David Amram; along with the trend setting

humorists Sid Caesar, Lenny Bruce, Mort Sahl, Bob Newhart and Shelly Berman, and the brilliant and socially active new singers Harry Belafonte, Odetta, Nina Simone and the Clancy Brothers. Greenwich Village gave birth to the 1960s Folk Revival that spawned Dylan, Peter, Paul and Mary, Phil Ochs, Tom Paxton, Judy Collins, Richie Havens, Eric Anderson, Janis Ian, et al, along with a new crop of humorists/stand-up comedians in Dick Gregory, Bill Cosby, Richard Pryor, George Carlin, Joan Rivers, Woody Allen and Dick Cavett, and a new group of hot jazz artists, and musical theatre shows and plays, like *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* and *After the Fall*. And, the arts in Greenwich Village continued to be a melting pot of the arts into the `70s, `80s, `90s, and up to this day. I also had the pleasure of developing friendships with those daring mavericks that opened the important venues for these artists to perform and ply their craft, such as Barney Josephson, Max Gordon, Art D'Lugoff, Fred Weintraub and Paul Colby, Mike Porco, Howard Solomon, Sam Hood, and Alan Pepper, and the record company founders Maynard Solomon and Jac Holzman who spread the music of these artists to the masses. And, I haven't even mentioned the ground breaking authors, painters and playwrights that spiced up the mix in the Village.

As manager of David Amram, I am most appreciative that you have chosen him to be your Artist-in-Residence of the Festival. Truly, there is no other artist over the past seventy years who has interacted, befriended, collaborated and performed with notable artists from so many different genres of the arts culture whose careers had an attachment to Greenwich Village – from jazz to folk music, classical to Latin music to World Music, to theatre and film, from the poets and humorists, onto the authors, playwrights, actors, directors and painters. David has been a pied piper for keeping the arts alive in the Village.

There is no doubt in my mind, that all of the above named artists and promoters will be grateful and bless you for creating a long over-due celebration and recognition of Greenwich Village with *The Village Trip*.

I applaud your efforts and give you my support for your important venture with *The Village Trip*.

Wishing you the Best of Luck Always,

Doug Yeager
DY/as