

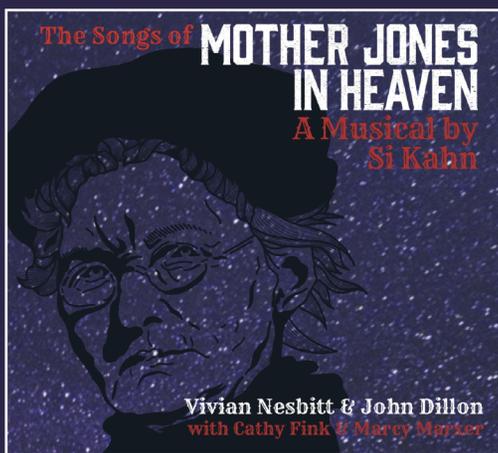
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Cast CD **The Songs of Mother Jones in Heaven** featuring Vivian, John and two-time grammy winners Cathy Fink & Marcy Marner now available.

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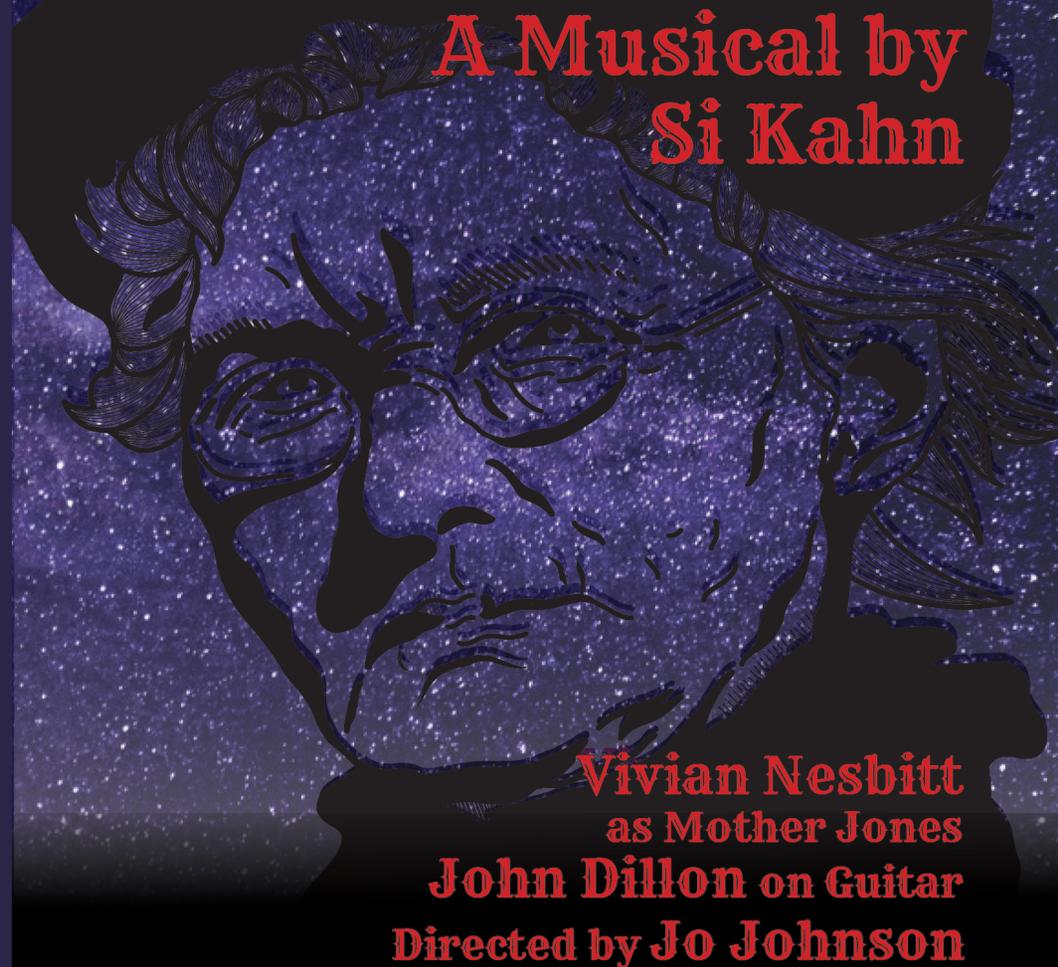
Vivian and John are members of the American Federation of Musicians Local 1000. Vivian is a member of SAG-AFTRA.

The American Labor Studies Center offers Mother Jones curriculum for middle and high school levels. More info at [www.labor-studies.org](http://www.labor-studies.org)



# MOTHER JONES IN HEAVEN

**A Musical by  
Si Kahn**



**Vivian Nesbitt  
as Mother Jones  
John Dillon on Guitar  
Directed by Jo Johnson**



[MotherJonesInHeaven.com](http://MotherJonesInHeaven.com)

## Artist Statement

Several years ago, I felt my soul move so passionately that it scared me. I'd never felt more vulnerable to a calling as an actor or less able for the challenge than in that moment. It was in Toronto, Canada in the exhibit hall of a music conference. I found myself talking with musician, author, organizer Si Kahn about his many new and various projects. I confessed to him that, in addition to being a radio host, I was an actor touring an original solo show. His eyes leapt and he told me about his play *Mother Jones in Heaven*. I had goosebumps as he spoke passages and sang verses of songs. I felt an eternity moment right there in the lobby of the Hilton; as if I was handed my future wrapped up in dialogue and song. I knew I had to do this show. I felt as if Mother Jones tapped me on the shoulder and said "get to work." We have been touring this iteration of the play to audiences all over the country and are looking forward to revisiting the script with Si Kahn to expand and deepen some of the stories and add three songs. We appreciate your participation as we bring this important story into the world.

I fell in love with Mother Jones, the woman, because she chose to stand up and make a difference at a time when most would have given up. I fell in love with Si Kahn's *Mother Jones In Heaven* because his music and his skillful use of story shows that no matter how fallible, one person can be a super-power when in service to the collective betterment of others.

We come into this world with gifts that are the tools with which we express our life force. Some, like Si Kahn and Mother Jones, organize groups into armies to ensure health care and safe working conditions for the good people of this world. John and I are picking up *our* tools and going to work using verbal, non-verbal, and musical language, so that the life and work of Mother Jones will inspire the next generation of hell-raisers for the good of the planet. - **Vivian Nesbitt**

*Mary Harris "Mother" Jones was born in Cork, IR in 1837. After emigrating from her homeland to Toronto, Canada she came to the US in the late 1850's. She worked as a dressmaker, teacher and ultimately a labor organizer after witnessing firsthand the atrocities brought on by inequity of pay, and access to safe working and living conditions. She died in 1930 shortly after celebrating what many called her 100th birthday. She was 93. But who's counting...*

## Si Kahn - Playwright



Si Kahn has worked for over 50 years as a professional civil rights, labor and community organizer and musician, touring and recording with such artists as Pete Seeger. The seven musicals for which he wrote the songs and/or script have had full productions at the Berkeley, Milwaukee and Tennessee Repertory Theaters; the Goodspeed Opera House's Norma Terris Theatre; Piccolo Spoleto Fringe in Charleston, SC; Perseverance Theatre in Juneau, AK; Central Square Theatre in Cambridge, MA; the Warehouse Performing Arts Center in Cornelius, NC; the Subversive Theatre Collective in Buffalo, NY; and Main Stage West in Sebastopol, CA. [SiKahn.com](http://SiKahn.com)

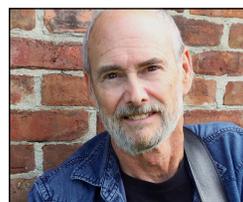
## Vivian Nesbitt - Performer



A performer, writer and educator, Vivian's work has been recognized at United Solo Theater Festival in NYC for Best Documentary Play and Best Lighting Design. She has recently performed with the Saratoga Shakespeare Company as the Earl of Kent in their 2019 production of *King Lear*.

**REGIONAL THEATER: George Street Playhouse:** Miep Gies - *Diary of Anne Frank*, Miss Casewell - *The Mouse Trap*; **The Pittsburgh Public:** Maud - *Steward of Christendom*, **Roundabout Theatre:** Understudy, *Candida* and *Miss Proserpine*. **The Barnstormers, NH:** Helen Stott - *And A Nightingale Sang*, Ruth - *Round and Round the Garden*, Agnes - *Dancing at Lughnasa*; **Gallery Players/Brooklyn, NY:** Jesse - *'Night Mother*, Lady MacDuff - *MacBeth*; **Mother Road Theatre Company:** Vi - *Memory of Water*, Kitty Oppenheimer - *The Love Song of J Robert Oppenheimer*, **ATTP:** Earl of Kent - *King Lear*, *Mistress Ford* - *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Dromio of Syracuse* - *Comedy of Errors*, *As You Like It* - *Rosalind*, **TV:** *The Night Shift*, *Manhattan*; *Breaking Bad*; *Longmire*; *In Plain Sight*; *Wildfire*. **FILM:** *Crossed Lines*, *I Am That*, *Arizona*, *Leverage*, *After the Fall*, *The Banshee Chapter*. **Awards:** Best Performance - NMWIF Film Fiesta; Best Supporting Actress Finalist NHTHA 2015 & 2018. Vivian holds an MFA in Acting from University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. She is also the co-founder of Art of the Song with her husband John Dillon, heard on public radio.

## John Dillon - Guitarist/Music Director



John is a singer-songwriter, author, radio host and former guitar-maker. In 2003, John and Vivian launched *Art of the Song*, a one-hour, public radio program now heard on over 100 stations. The program focuses on interviewing artists who are using their creativity to make a difference. John sums up his learning in a book called *The 20-20 Creativity Solution*, which teaches a practice to access everyday creativity.

John has recently resumed his passion for songwriting: [IHaveASongForThat.com](http://IHaveASongForThat.com)

## Jo Johnson - Director



An essential member of the team, Jo's regional stage management credits can be found in the archives of Mill Mountain Playhouse, Trinity Repertory theater and Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Jo also acts as Production Stage Manager for the touring production of *Mother Jones In Heaven*, and *The Bark & The Tree* by Vivian Nesbitt. She completed her MFA from the Professional Theater Training program at University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Her acting credits are growing to include several productions in the Philadelphia area. She is an activist, writer and a photographer and studies acting at The Barrow Group. [JustJoPhoto.com](http://JustJoPhoto.com)