

Photo Credit: Jason R. Herricks



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## Denny Partridge

Director, Performer



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*Mud Time Theater's current show, Mildred Taken Crazy, is about a famous and long-forgotten Montpelier murder of 1897. Like so much in Vermont, it's a story of wildness where you least expect it. For more information on Mud Time Theater and Mildred Taken Crazy, please visit [mudtimetheater.com](http://mudtimetheater.com).*

**M**y family was from the Deep South. In 1954, we visited New England on a family camping trip and fell in love with Vermont. My parents once told me that Vermont was where they could imagine being safe in the event of a nuclear war. Very 1950s. We bought an old farm with no plumbing or electricity, and a house that needed our help. Vermont became the place we lived when we weren't living someplace else, like Iceland or San Diego or Taiwan: my dad was in the Navy. I longed for Vermont when we weren't here. I missed the uncared-for apple trees and the sound of mice partying in my bedroom ceiling. Once, for a few months, I went to the one-room schoolhouse in South Windham. I was the only person in fourth grade. That was wonderful.



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### Herricks Cove, Rockingham

I moved back to Vermont a few years ago, after four decades of directing plays and teaching theater in New York and California. My mate and I had always liked Bellows Falls. We used to come here in the '70s and appreciate the vibe. He's from Duluth and has a taste for old industrial towns with winters that make people shake their heads. Now we have a two-person theater company, Mud Time Theater. We rehearse in our small house in Bellows Falls and perform all over Vermont and elsewhere in the U.S. and Europe. Am I recreating my childhood? Could be.

Every day we take our dog for a run or a swim. We go to places where we can all three let our minds run free. Daisy's part whippet and part lab, and she's always in search of good smells and fast-moving water. There's a swimming hole on Forest Road she likes, and a deep-woods trail up on Griswold Hill, and there's Herricks Cove, on Rt. 5 just north of I-91's Exit 6.

Herricks is a good spot in every season, no matter how messy the weather. On summer weekends it's like a city park, crowded with families and picnics, and in the off-season it's an uninhabited wilderness. The colors change throughout the year. On winter afternoons the snow is pink and the trees black. My preference is for mud season, when the puddles are silver-blue mirrors and every step feels risky and treacherous. We like the Robert Frost poem "Two Tramps in Mud Time." That helped inspire the name Mud Time Theater.

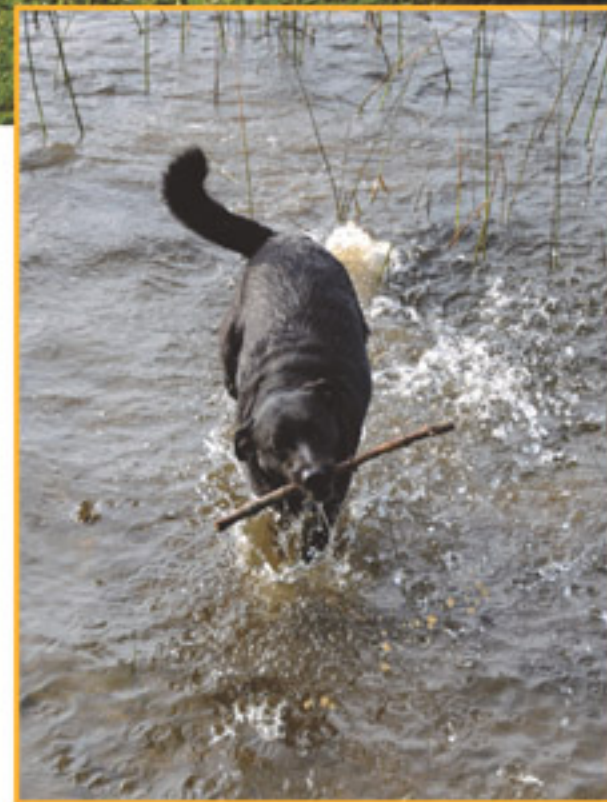


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