



## Press Release

Peconic Landing • 1500 Brecknock Road, Greenport, NY 11944 • 631.477.3800  
[www.PeconicLanding.org](http://www.PeconicLanding.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2018

CONTACT: Carrie Miller

631-276-8855

### **Peconic Landing, Manhattan Film Institute (MFI) receive Innovation of the Year Longtime employee Joseph Hughes named Employee of Distinction**

Greenport, NY– Peconic Landing is proud to announce it has been recognized by LeadingAge New York with two awards: the *Innovation of the Year Award* in partnership with the Manhattan Film Institute (MFI), and *Employee of Distinction Award* recognizing longtime employee Joseph Hughes, Facilities Supervisor.

The awards were presented by LeadingAge New York's Kristen Myers, Vice President of Member Services, during an awards ceremony and celebration at the Greenport Continuing Care Retirement Community on July 13th.

#### **2018 Innovation of the Year**

Peconic Landing and MFI were awarded the *2018 Innovation of the Year Award* recognizing their collaborative intergenerational film project "Seniors in Film."

The project, completed in 2017 brought seniors from Peconic Landing and aspiring film students together to learn and grow through film.

Peconic Landing leadership worked with actor/screenwriter Chazz Palminteri, director/screenwriter (and MFI co-founder) Tony Spiridakis, and writer/producer Shannon Goldman to develop the program, which included a six-week course on the "Fundamentals of Film" taught to interested members at the community by Mr. Spiridakis. It was followed by the opportunity to create a short film under the mentorship of award-winning film experts. The result is a 4-minute short film titled, "Life after Death" written by a high school teenager and portrayed by individuals in their 70s and 80s. The quirky film takes a humorous look at love and loss. Experience it at [www.manhattanfilmstitute.com/life-after-death/](http://www.manhattanfilmstitute.com/life-after-death/)

The Innovation of the Year Award recognizes innovative approaches to care and services for seniors. The award recognizes programs that stand out because of their ground-breaking

creativity, vision, success, and ability to be replicated. Winning submissions may improve the quality of services or utilize creative problem-solving to add to the field of aging services, according to the LeadingAge New York awards criteria.

“This partnership truly symbolizes creative use of resources and talent combined to form a new product for the benefit of many. The concept can be replicated at different organizations with different partners, so it can truly benefit the field,” Ms. Myers said. “It also benefits members, staff and the general community surrounding Peconic Landing.”

MFI co-founder Tony Spiridakis, who spent a great deal of time with members at the community working on the program, said “I’ve done a few things with some pretty amazing people, and nothing comes close to the experiences that I have shared with these residents. It was an incredible experience for all involved, and they will forever hold a place in my heart.”

Robert J. Syron, President and CEO of Peconic Landing, accepted the award on behalf of the community.

“By creating this partnership with MFI, we were able to engage our members in a unique way. They were able to learn something new, and for many reconnect with something they love – acting and drama – but in the modern age. This was an incredible experience for all involved, and we couldn’t be more excited and appreciative of MFI for embracing this intergenerational project.”

For a video exploring member experiences with the project visit: <https://youtu.be/SjonMywuq0U>

### **2018 Employee of Distinction – Joseph Hughes**

Joseph Hughes, Facilities Supervisor and a 12-year employee at Peconic Landing was named Employee of Distinction by LeadingAge New York, a recognition given to just 18 individuals across the state annually.

The Employee of Distinction Award recognizes the extraordinary efforts of frontline staff at New York’s not-for-profit, mission-driven senior care and service provider organizations. It honors those who go above and beyond the status quo in helping to provide quality care and services to New York’s seniors, according to the LeadingAge New York awards criteria.

Mr. Hughes is the community’s lead certified preventative maintenance technician, supervising a team of 12 and working to ensure member work orders are completed and department protocols are being followed. He helps oversee scheduling, special projects and leads cross-training between Facilities and Security teams.

“Today we are here to honor Joseph for all he does here at Peconic Landing. He has the most important role of keeping everyone safe and the community running smoothly,” Ms. Myers said.

“Not only does he excel in this role but he also takes it very seriously, monitoring all aspects of the operations whether on or off campus and responding whenever duty calls.”

Darryl Volinski, Director of Environmental Services, said “you can count on Joe at any hour to be here for any emergency: floods, leaks, fire alarms, and snow storms. He knows these protocols like the back of his hand because he helped create many of them. He has dedicated himself to Peconic Landing, our members, and his job. Congratulations Joe!”

The Employee of Distinction honorees were recognized with a legislative resolution read in both the Senate and the Assembly. It was presented to Mr. Hughes by Assemblyman Anthony Palumbo during the ceremony.

*For more information about Peconic Landing visit [www.peconiclanding.org](http://www.peconiclanding.org).*

**LeadingAge New York** is a not-for-profit advocacy group representing more than 600 retirement communities throughout the state. It also represents an estimated 150,000 professionals serving more than 500,000 New Yorkers annually.

**Peconic Landing** is a nationally recognized, not-for-profit Lifecare retirement community overlooking the breathtaking Long Island Sound. Located on the North Fork of Long Island, our 144-acre campus is bordered by grapevines and golfing greens, situated on a half-mile of private Sound beach. The community is home to the North Fork’s only Sculpture Garden and serves as a cultural arts hub for the East End Community presenting ample opportunity for individuals to pursue their interests and passions to the fullest. For information about Peconic Landing visit [www.PeconicLanding.org](http://www.PeconicLanding.org).

###