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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Mohonk Mountain Stage Company Kicks Off Its
Tenth Anniversary Celebration Season***

New Paltz, NY –Mohonk Mountain Stage Company will kick off its **Tenth Anniversary Celebration Season** on Saturday, September 11, 2004 with the *Vanguard Voices Project*. The 2004 Fall Season will feature the world premiere of a new play, *Scrabble and Tabouli*, written especially for MMSC's Anniversary by Laurence Carr, as well as the world premiere of four new plays from the State University of New York at New Paltz's Dramatic Writing Program in MMSC's unique *Vanguard Voices Project*. MMSC presents the Hudson Valley premiere of Charlotte Jones's *Humble Boy* in October, and for the first time, MMSC presents the winners of the *Vanguard Voices of the Hudson Valley Poetry Contest for 2004*. The Fall Season also includes two additional premieres as well as an encore performance from MMSC's original 1995 season. It is an array of classic and contemporary drama and literature that will amuse, delight and challenge audiences.

The season opens 8:00 p.m. Saturday, September 11, and Sunday, September 12 at 2 p.m in Parker Theatre on SUNY's New Paltz Campus with MMSC's *Third Annual Vanguard Voices Project: Nurturing New Playwrights*, with MMSC Producing Director Robert Miller directing and MMSC's Playwright-in-Residence, Laurence Carr, serving as dramaturg . *The Short Stories of Henry James*, an encore performance from MMSC's 1995 season, will follow on Saturday, September 18 at 8 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in New Paltz.

These two opening performances lead off the 11-production Fall Season that runs from September 11 through December 11, 2004. Playing in October are Arthur Miller's classic *The Price* (October 29), directed by RoseMarie Navarra, performed at Unison Arts & Learning Center; the Hudson Valley premiere of Charlotte Jones's *Humble Boy* (October 16, 21, 22 & 23), a comedy about life, love and bee-keeping, directed by MMSC Producing Director Robert Miller; and *The Ordinary Living* (October 2), an evening dedicated to the work of local author Barbara Adams. In November are Jeffrey Hatcher's *Three Viewings* (November 6); David Rambo's *God's Man In Texas* (November 20); *The Poetry of War* (November 5) conceived by Barbara Adams and directed by Christine Crawfis; and *Scrabble and Tabouli* (November 13), a new play by Laurence Carr. Closing out the Fall Season in

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Mohonk Mountain Stage Company - News Release
Tenth Anniversary Celebration Season Announced
Page 2

December will be *New York Writing* (December 4), including a performance of the winning poems from the 2004 Vanguard Voices of the Hudson Valley Poetry Contest; and *A Celebration of the Golden Age of Radio* (December 10 & 11), a fun-filled way to enter the Holiday Season.

These exciting theatrical and literary experiences number among the compelling reasons that MMSC founder Robert G. Miller first formed Mohonk Mountain Stage Company in 1994 with a TYA (Theatre for Young Audiences) production of *Androcles and the Lion* and a two play evening for adult audiences of John Mortimer's *The Dock Brief* and G.B. Shaw's *How He Lied To Her Husband*. Miller's optimism, toughness and absolute commitment to theatre, art and people, whether they be young or old, in the audience, on the stage, behind the scenes, or characters in a play saw his dream evolve into MMSC as it is today.

Mohonk Mountain Stage Company (MMSC) has, over the past ten years, been an integral part of the cultural landscape of the Valley:

- We have presented hundreds of programs for young and adult audiences;
- We perform the classics of dramatic, poetic and narrative literature, as well as the work of recently published writers;
- We nurture young writers through our New Playwrights Program with the Dramatic Writing Program at SUNY (State University of New York) at New Paltz;
- We give an annual scholarship to a high school senior who intends to study the dramatic arts in college;
- And we publish Vanguard Voices of the Hudson Valley, a semi-annual journal dedicated to bringing new works of drama and poetry to the attention of our audiences.

Details about the Tenth Anniversary Celebration Season, a month-by-month schedule with performance location information, an electronic photo gallery as well as a Basic Fact Sheet about MMSC can be found at www.mmstageco.com.

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