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Mohonk Mountain Stage Company Presents
The Vanguard Voices Project:
Nurturing New Playwrights
on September 11 and 12, 2004

Note: MMSC Production Photo Available - Print or Electronically - upon Request

New Paltz, NY –Mohonk Mountain Stage Company's **Tenth Anniversary Celebration Fall Season** will kick off with the ***Vanguard Voices Project: Nurturing New Playwrights***, the third annual presentation of new plays by current and graduate students in the State University of New York at New Paltz's Dramatic Writing Program on Saturday, September 11 at 8 PM and Sunday, September 12 at 2 PM at Parker Theatre on SUNY's New Paltz campus. .

MMSC's unique ***Vanguard Voices Project*** provides an invaluable workshop and performance experience for emerging playwrights, as they develop plays in a nurturing environment. Working with Robert G. Miller, MMSC's Producing Director, and Laurence Carr, MMSC Playwright in Residence and Head of the SUNY New Paltz Dramatic Writing Program, four plays were selected, cast with a company of versatile actors, rehearsed and revised in a workshop setting, and will be premiered at Parker Theatre.

MMSC's mission is to provide a performance format for actors, playwrights and audiences whose passions for theater and literature intersect. MMSC's Readers Theatre is a performance style where the word, and all concomitant ideas, purposes, and realizations, become the focus. It is a natural extension of this mission for MMSC to support the ***Vanguard Voices Project*** meant to nurture new playwrights and to provide a forum for these young writers who are creating theatrical, potent and entertaining new American stories..

The ***Vanguard Voices Project*** is also an opportunity for Hudson Valley audiences to experience the development of new theatrical work. Audiences will have the opportunity to hear new work from this group of playwrights who are at varying stages in their early careers. Taken as a whole, these works represent the diverse genres, cultures, and theatrical vocabularies of the American theater scene. Through the ***Vanguard Voices Project*** MMSC has been privileged to lend support for the third year in a row to a group of

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young playwrights, offering them a safe haven to listen to each other's work and receive the constructive feedback and encouragement of professionals.

Selected for production in *Vanguard Voices Project 2004* are:

The Letters by Michael Bonet

Marching Home Again by Christopher Dumm

Minor Details by Eliza Murray

Publisher's Block by Jamie Gerardi

Readers for **Vanguard Voices Project 2004** are: Heather Berry, Jack Harris, Jack Kroll, Laura Love Kroll, Sean Marrinan, RoseMarie Navarra, and Bruce Pileggi. All pieces will be directed by Robert G. Miller, with Laurence Carr serving as dramturg for the project.

A vital part of the project will be the "Talk Back" session which will follow each performance; these young playwrights need to hear audience feedback. The process of writing a play or, indeed, becoming a good playwright is not an easy one and requires a nurturing atmosphere and the input of many "listeners" along the way.

Performances are Saturday, September 11 at 8 PM and Sunday, September 12 at 2 PM at SUNY's Parker Theatre on the SUNY Campus. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students with a valid ID. Reservations may be made by calling MMSC's offices at (845) 255-3102.

Robert G. Miller (Producing Director, Mohonk Mountain Stage Company) holds a BA from Tufts University and an MA from the University of Iowa. His directorial credits for MMSC include *Sylvia*, *Art and Alfred Stieglitz Loves O'Keeffe*. His Theatre for Young Audiences productions for both MMSC and the Asolo State Theatre Company of Florida have toured nationally, performing in schools, theaters, and civic centers. Sponsors include both the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. and Brooklyn Academy of Music in Brooklyn, NY.

Mohonk Mountain Stage Company is an independent theater company that has been operating in the Hudson Valley since 1995. MMSC has produced lauded hits, such as: **Copenhagen**, **Sylvia**, **Art**, **Molly Sweeney**, **Long Day's Journey Into Night**, **Dinner With Friends**, **Taking Sides**, **The Laramie Project** and **Alfred Stieglitz Loves O'Keeffe**. It has garnered numerous awards from The Taconic Newspapers and Times Herald-Record, including Best Theatrical Event of the Year, Best Play and Best Actor. MMSC's Theatre for Young Audiences productions, including **Brave Little Tailor**, **The Jungle Book** and **The Frog Prince**, have toured nationally, performing in schools, theaters, and civic centers. Sponsors included both the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. and Brooklyn Academy of Music in Brooklyn, NY, as well as local and regional elementary schools.

Details about the *Vanguard Voices Project*, *MMSC's 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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