

PROLOGUE

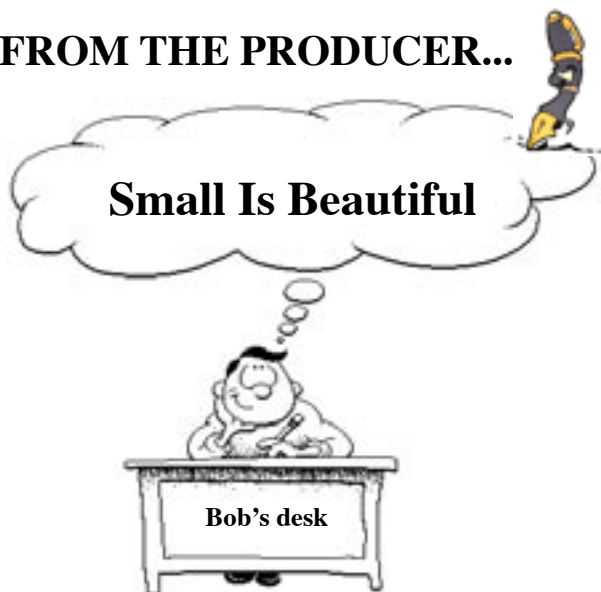
News from Mohonk Mountain Stage Company

May 2004 - Vol. #9, Issue #5

Robert G. Miller, Producing Director

Our Ninth Year!

FROM THE PRODUCER...



Planning out my garden this year got me to thinking about broadcasting. Now you may think that's a tenuous connection, but "broadcasting" was originally a farming term. There are two ways to plant seeds: one is my way (some might say the frugal way), counting out the seeds, very carefully, and placing them in rows according to seed packet specifications; the other way is by grabbing a handful of seed and tossing it in a wide arc, letting them fall where they may, broadcasting.

The term was a brilliant metaphor for the magical new technology that transmitted words and pictures through the air into people's home where they would take root in their lives.

Many of the inventors who pioneered radio and TV technology were visionaries who believed broadcasting could have enormous benefits for mankind. The technology was miraculous, but there was a problem--one of particular interest to RCA and AT&T, both owners, in the early 1920s, of fledgling radio networks. The problem: How to make radio pay a dividend to stockholders. The solution? Sell time on air to advertisers. A big idea from big business that put the mass in mass media. The bigger the mass, the higher the ad rates and, consequently, the bigger the

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The Dark Corners of Daily Beings: The Short Stories of William Trevor

May 1, 2004, 8 PM

St. Andrew's Church
in New Paltz

Admission \$7



The lyrical fiction of the prolific Irish storyteller William Trevor will be brought to life by Christine Crawfis, Gerald Seligman, and Don Wildy in a celebration of Trevor's short stories. Among the stories related in this evening of rich Irish prose are "Lunch In Winter," from *Outside Ireland: Selected Stories* and "A Friend In the Trade" and the title story from *The Hill Bachelors*.

William Trevor's range and sensitivity are truly stunning, and one of his most remarkable accomplishments is his empathy with a woman's point of view. Yet, like any great work of fiction, the appeal of "Lunch in Winter" extends far beyond the literal circumstances of its telling or gender. It is a deeply resonant story of aging, of longing, of the ways in which dreams may blind us, and how nostalgia for the past may bar us from living in the present.

"A Friend In the Trade" highlights Trevor's skill at drawing, with pinpoint accuracy, characters who are misfits and eccentrics, those who are socially awkward and uncomfortable to encounter. The story centers around a retirement-age couple from London who are selling the home in which they raised their family and moving to the seaside. The ramifications of this decision on their children, acquaintances and, indeed, themselves are subtle but profound.

William Trevor knows that part of every Irishman's birthright is the onerous necessity to face, sooner or later, a life defining decision: do I stay? do I leave? Trevor left. His character Paul (no surname mentioned), of "The Hill Bachelors," is brought by

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Crazy Ideas: The World According to the Minds of Irreverent Literary Humorists

May 8, 2004 at 8 P.M.

St. Andrew's Church,
New Paltz, Admission \$7



Stories, sketches and poems from the pens of some of the best comic writers will be featured in **Crazy Ideas**, a program of classic and contemporary humor.

Our "treasury of laughter" will include jewels from such notables as Groucho Marx, James Thurber, Etgar Keret, Woody Allen, Steve Martin, David Sedaris, Laurie Colwin and local author Bobbi Katz.



The stories to be read on this evening of humorist hijinks include: James Thurber's classic "There's An Owl In My Room,"

Groucho Marx's "Press Agents I Have Known," Laurie Colwin's "Repulsive Dinners: A Memoir," and Steve Martin's hilarious

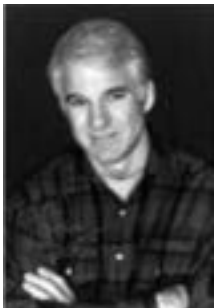
"Changes In The Memory After Fifty."

Israel's hip young writer, Etgar Keret, is represented with "Jet Lag" and Bobbi Katz is featured with her story of a young

woman's coming of age, "Betrayal." Rounding out the line-up will be Woody Allen's "Selections From the Allen Notebooks" and an atypical story by David Sedaris, "Our Perfect Summer."



The readers for these humorous stories are Don Wildy, Ruth Berg, Richard Cattabiani, Sean Marrinan, Christine Crawfis and Robert G. Miller. **Crazy Ideas** will be an irresistibly funny gathering of ideas and words, guaranteed to tickle your funny bone and provide the perfect cure for your spring fever. Call 255-3102 now to reserve your seats.



The Waverly Gallery

by Kenneth Lonergan

Friday, May 14.

Saturday, May 15.

Friday, May 21 and

Saturday, May 22

at 8 PM

Unison Arts and

Learning Center

\$9 Unison members,

\$12 non-members



Photo credit: Marlis Momber

Based in part on his own observances and experiences of his grandmother, Kenneth Lonergan's **The Waverly Gallery** received acclaim for its crisp dialogue and perceptive illumination of the comic and poignant aspects of an older woman's decline into Alzheimer's Disease and its effects on her family.

Gladys, a feisty, opinionated, loquacious and generous woman in her eighties, spent her early years as a left-wing political and social activist and owner of a small art gallery in Greenwich Village. She's now struggling to maintain her independence as she battles Alzheimer's, and as she progresses from eccentricity to disorientation and confusion, her daughter, son-in-law and grandson are forced to confront the emotional distance and difficulty in communicating that have been the hallmark of their family's interactions. **The Waverly Gallery** captures the bittersweet humor and strength of a family in the face of crisis.

Longergan, a Bronx native, was born in 1963 to a doctor and a psychoanalyst and raised in Manhattan. He began developing his writing skills in high school, winning an award in Stephen Sondheim's first Young Playwrights Festival in 1982 and subsequently majoring in dramatic writing at NYU. Following graduation, Lonergan wrote material for industrial shows and speeches, and staged one-act plays for the Naked Angels Troupe in NYC. An early one-act, **Betrayal By Everyone**, garnered widespread attention and later evolved into the full-length piece re-titled **This Is Our Youth**, which was selected as one of *Time* magazine's ten best plays of 1998, and for which Lonergan received *Encore* magazine's Taking Off Award and a Drama Desk Best Play Award nomination. **The Waverly Gallery** was nominated for a John Gassner Playwriting Award.

Longergan has several screen credits to his name, as well. An early spec script about a gangster seeking treatment for depression was eventually optioned in the early '90's; after numerous re-writes, **Analyze This** became a

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**First Lessons:
The Wisdom of
Phyllis McGinley**
Saturday, June 5 at 8 PM
St. Andrew's Church
Main Street in New Paltz
Admission \$7



Phyllis McGinley was born in 1905 in Ontario, Oregon. She distinguished herself as a poet at an early age – as a teenager, her poetry was published in *The New Yorker* and *The Atlantic* – but is best known for work rooted in the suburban lifestyle and landscape. As a result, she was often dismissed as a “lightweight,” not to be considered seriously, but her verses were deceptively simple, often hiding sharp wit and biting commentary.

Educated in California and Utah, she had brief teaching stints in Utah and New Rochelle, NY, before moving to New York City, where she held various jobs, including

advertising copywriter and poetry editor for *Town and Country*. Her first volume of poems, *On the Contrary* (1934) was well-received; subsequent books of poetry included *One More Manhattan* (1937),

*Ah, snug lie those that slumber
Beneath Conviction's roof.
Their floors are sturdy lumber
Their windows weatherproof.
But I sleep cold forever
And cold sleep all my kind
For I was born to shiver
In the draft from an open mind.*
from “In Defense of Sin”

A Pocketful of Wry (1940), *Stones from a Glass House* (1946), *Love Letters* (1954) and *Confessions of a Reluctant Optimist* (1973), among others.

She was elected to the National Academy of Arts and Letters in 1955, and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 for *Times Three: Selected Verse from Three Decades* (1960). She also wrote a number of children's books, including *The Horse That Lived Upstairs* (1944), *The Make-Believe Twins* (1953), *Boys Are Awful* (1962) and *How Mrs. Santa Claus Saved Christmas* (1963). She published numerous essays in *Ladies' Home Journal*

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Small Is Beautiful - (cont. from page 1, col. 1)

business. Radio audiences changed overnight from being citizens served by technology, to consumers delivered by technology to people who wanted to sell them stuff.

Those early visionaries were horrified that their invention would be used to sell toothpaste. Philo Farnsworth, who invented and exhibited electronic television 5 years before RCA chief David Sarnoff brazenly took credit for it at the 1939 New York World's Fair, was so discouraged by what TV became that he refused to allow his children to watch it.

I wonder what our broadcast culture might have become if it had not been dominated by the profit motive. Perhaps, rather than spewing handfuls of programs over the airways, we would have fewer but more carefully tended programs that produced nourishment without waste.

Perhaps small communities would each have their own networks, created to serve the needs of those communities--a sort of regional or local mini-media. The electromagnetic spectrum, which carries electronic radio and TV signals, belongs to us--the citizens of America. If we were given a choice, would we use it differently?

Meanwhile, I am still counting out my seeds.

And we are still counting out our programs. Please join us for one of the evenings featured in this newsletter.

McGinley (continued)

and *Reader's Digest*, which were later collected in *The Province of the Heart* (1959), *Sixpence in Her Shoe* (1964), and *Saint Watching* (1969). She also wrote the lyrics for a 1948 musical revue, *Small Wonder*. She died in February, 1978, in New York City.

We'll have more about **First Lessons** in the June issue of *Prologue*, but mark your calendar now to join us on **Saturday, June 5th** for this evening of wise and witty words by one of America's First Ladies of Poetry.

PROLOGUE is written and edited by Christine Crawfis and Nan Alderson; Bob Miller is a contributing writer.
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William Trevor - (continued from page 1, col.2)

the story, through a myriad of compassionately individuated personal details, to his specific birthright's necessary moment of decision.

This promises to be a night of Irish storytelling at its best. Call 255-3102 to reserve your seats and join us for **The Dark Corners of Daily Beings**.



It's LIVE!!!

We are pleased to announce that our "new-and-improved" website

www.mmstageco.com

is now live, for your browsing pleasure! We hope you'll become a frequent visitor to our website, to learn more about upcoming programs, get the inside scoop on special events, or test your memory about past productions.

Kudos to Jared Pereira, of JP Graphic Designs, for his invaluable assistance, too – we couldn't have done it without him!

Vanguard Voices of the Hudson Valley Call for Entries

For the fall issue of our *Vanguard Voices of the Hudson Valley* Journal, we are seeking poetry written by authors residing in New York's Hudson Valley. Our 2004 Poetry Contest features a First Prize of \$150, Second and Third Prizes of \$50 each, and Honorable Mentions (no prize money). All winning submissions, plus additional selections, will be featured in a special evening of poetry readings by MMSC in the Fall, as well as publication in the *Vanguard Voices* Journal. There is a reading fee of \$15 for up to 3 poems. Final judging will be done by published poet and MMSC Reader Barbara Adams.

The postmark deadline for all entries is August 15, 2004. You can download a PDF version of the complete Guidelines for Submissions by visiting our new website at **www.mmstageco.com**; click on "Publications," then "Journals," and then click on the "Guidelines" link.

Waverly Gallery - (continued from page 2, col. 2)

box-office hit and landed Loneragan his first on-screen credit. Subsequent films include **You Can Count On Me**, winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the 2000 Sundance Film Festival, and screenwriting credit (and an Oscar nomination) for Martin Scorsese's **Gangs of New York**.

"I'm a great believer that real life is more interesting than made-up life, that the details of real life are much more dramatic," said Loneragan of his writing in a 2001 interview. "I just want it all to seem like it's basically all believable, and that what you get is what would happen if you were just sitting there, listening."

Appearing in MMSC's production of **The Waverly Gallery** are Ruth Berg, Laurence Carr, Christine Crawfis, Jack Kroll, and Bruce Pileggi. **The Waverly Gallery** will be performed at Unison Arts and Learning Center, on Mountain Rest Road in New Paltz, over two consecutive weekends. Call 255-3102 for information and reservations.

Bloomsday Centennial Celebration

Wed., June 16 at 8 PM

St. Andrew's Church,
Main Street in New Paltz
Admission: \$7



From conference centers and theatres in Dublin to college English departments and small-town libraries (and church basements!) throughout the world, scholars and readers from all corners of the globe will congregate to celebrate the 100th anniversary of one of literature's most famous fictional days: June 16, 1904, otherwise known as "Bloomsday." In James Joyce's **Ulysses** (his great reworking of the Homeric epic poem **The Odyssey**), he traces that single day in the life of the novel's hero, Leopold Bloom, as the Irish Jew makes his way through Dublin, encountering pretty women, anti-Semitic men and, perhaps most importantly, young writer Stephen Dedalus.

Hailed as one of Ireland's greatest writers and sometimes thought to be the greatest writer in the English language since Shakespeare, James Joyce has been lauded for his keen reflection of the way people actually thought, spoke and behaved, and his accurate portrayal of the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of early 20th century Dublin.

We'll have more about MMSC's plans to mark the "Bloomsday Centennial" occasion in our next issue of **Prologue**, but save the date now on your calendar and make plans to join us on **Wednesday, June 16, 2004** for our toast to Leopold Bloom and his compatriots.