

# PROLOGUE

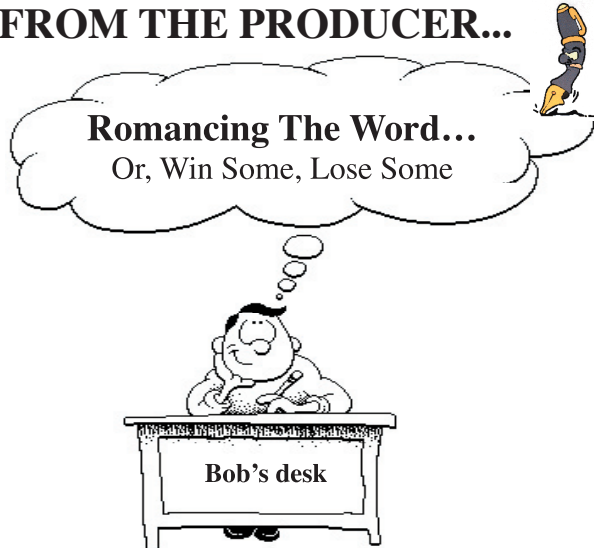
News from Mohonk Mountain Stage Company

October 2004 - Vol. #9, Issue #8

Robert G. Miller, Producing Director

Our Tenth Anniversary!

## FROM THE PRODUCER...

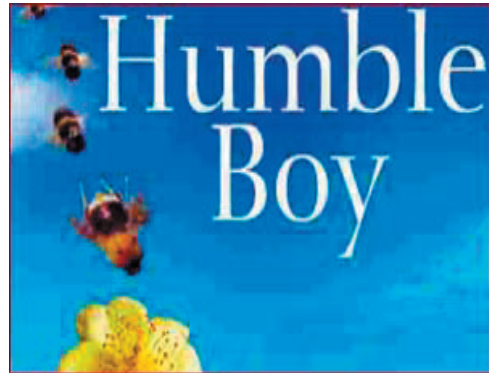


We have always been a theater company in love with words and the power they have to create images in our minds, evoke emotions in our hearts and put smiles on our faces. We've wooed them all: lonely words, well-known words, snippy four-letter words and multisyllabic polyphonemes.

A love story: For the past three years, we have thrown our hearts, souls, time and money into the **Vanguard Voices Project**, which we developed with the Dramatic Writing Program at SUNY New Paltz. The **VV Project** develops, in a workshop setting, the best plays written by SUNY students and alumni, and then performs them before a public audience and ultimately publishes them.

Last year, generous support from the SUNY Alumni Association and the English Department helped offset some losses arising from the publication of the finished scripts. The project was continued this year while we pursued additional sources of support within the college. While we have received encouragement from SUNY administrators, we have learned that underwriting assistance from the college is not possible, causing us to cancel (temporarily, we hope) the publication of this year's student work. While we may not be able to publish this year's scripts, we hope to keep the project – one we believe in wholeheartedly – alive.

*(continued on page 3, col. 1)*



## Humble Boy

By Charlotte Jones

Another Hudson Valley Premiere

Buzzes Straight to the Heart

## FOUR PERFORMANCES ONLY!

*Saturday, October 16, Thursday, October 21,  
Friday, October 22 and Saturday, October 23, 2004  
@8 PM*

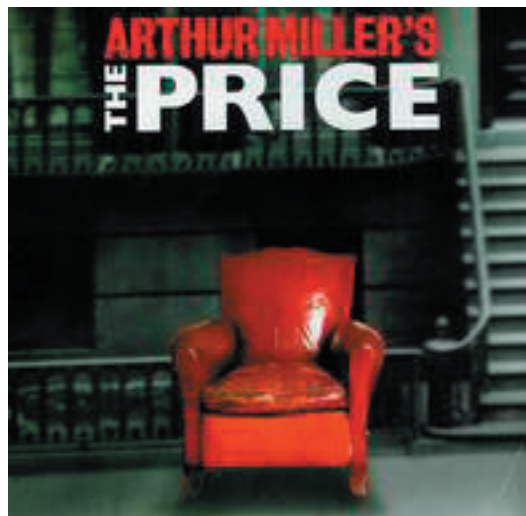
*St. Andrew's Church, 163 Main, New Paltz*

*Admission: \$10; students with ID \$5*

Written in 2001, **Humble Boy** is a luminous, sad, funny play about Cambridge research fellow and astrophysicist Felix Humble, who returns home for his entomologist and bee-keeping Dad's funeral, only to find that his queen-bee mother Flora has her eye on George Pye, the next door neighbor. Angered by his mother's behavior, distressed by some shocking revelations and confused about his own future, Felix contemplates dissociation in a black hole and the best way "to do yourself in," until an angry bee and a knowledgeable gardener illuminate the situation and lead Felix to his own "Eureka Moment." It is about a mother-son relationship, a Cotswold garden, a Theory of Everything and beekeeping.

MMSC Producing Director Robert Miller notes, "Charlotte Jones has managed to create so many layers in this relatively simple story. Her dialogue is witty and sharp, but this is more than just a charmingly funny play. Jones is the kind of writer who can tie together bees, **Hamlet**, Isaac Newton, Stephen Hawking, the Garden of Eden, black holes, and a

*(continued on page 2, col. 2)*



### ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY!

Friday, October 29, 2004 @ 8 PM  
 Unison Arts and Learning Center  
 Mountain Rest Road in New Paltz  
 Admission: \$9 for Unison members  
 and \$12 for non-members

\* \* \*

“One of the most engrossing and entertaining plays that Miller has ever written. It is superbly, even flamboyantly theatrical...”

*The New York Times*

**The Price** examines the conflicts and jealousy between two brothers, who meet, after a 16-year estrangement, in the attic of the family home to dispose of some old furniture. Two brothers, one wife and a marvelously crotchety “dealer” who has come to buy the furniture engage in taut, superbly theatrical scenes which reveal each character and expose the family secrets that led to the brothers’ long alienation.

Directed by RoseMarie Navarra, MMSC’s production of **The Price** features MMSC favorites Bruce Pileggi and Christine Crawfis, as well as newcomers Doug Wooley and John LeFevre.

Newsday called **The Price** Miller’s “finest drama since **The Crucible**.”



*“Despite my wishes I could not tamper with something the play and life seemed to be telling me: that we were doomed to perpetuate our illusions because truth was too costly to face.”*

— Arthur Miller on  
**The Price**

### Humble Boy - (cont. from pg. 1, col. 2)

garden party in which untoward incidents befall human remains. Jones has the skill to keep all of these balls in the air at once, metaphors within metaphors, cross-referenced, layers of wit that coalesce into Big Issues like love, death and immortality.”

The cast features Sean Marrinan as Felix Humble, Christine Crawfis as Flora Humble, Elizabeth Barrows as Mercy Lott, Ron Schade as George Pye, Heather Berry as Rosie Pye, and William Connors as Jim, the Gardener.

British playwright Charlotte Jones received the People’s Choice Best New Play Award, Critic’s Circle Award for Best New Play and the Susan Smith Blackburn Award for **Humble Boy**. She is the author of six plays and has written the book for Andrew Lloyd Webber’s new musical, an adaptation of Wilkie Collins’ *The Woman in White*, that just opened in London’s West End in September.

Performances are Saturday, October 16, Thursday, October 21, Friday, October 22 and Saturday, October 23 at 8 at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 163 Main Street in New Paltz. Reservations may be made by calling MMSC’s offices at (845) 255-3102.



Coming soon to the MMSC Web Site  
**MMSC’s Blog Notes**  
 Are you ready for this?!?! Keep watchin’.

### MMSC’s Poetry Contest Winners Soon To Be Announced

The winners of the 2004 edition of the **Vanguard Voices of the Hudson Valley Poetry Contest** will be announced very soon. Final selections are underway and we will place the list of winners on our web site ([www.mmstageco.com](http://www.mmstageco.com)) in the near future. The publication of the second edition of the *Vanguard Voices of the Hudson Valley* journal, containing the winning poems along with others chosen for publication, will be available by year’s end. Stay tuned.

And remember to save the date of December 4th when we will present **New York Writing**, a special evening dedicated to those writers writing about NY, as well as the winners of the Poetry Contest.

## Preview - Save These Dates:

### The Poetry of War - Nov. 5

Carnage on a monstrous scale is the inevitable outcome of war, yet poets are often born in battle. The poems in this program cover 600 years of war, from Henry IV to World War II. They were written by patriots, soldiers turned pacifists, impotent observers, and a nurse. There are a rare few written by women. Poets include Shakespeare, Tennyson, Hardy, Yeats, Sassoon, Owen, Auden, Whitman, Jarrell, Hecht, Eberhart, and McGinley.

### Three Viewings by Jeffrey Hatcher - Nov. 6

As in the HBO hit series, **Six Feet Under**, the three serio-comic monologues in **Three Viewings** take place in a funeral parlor. Performed separately, the three stories interweave to portray the deceased and the bereaved, and the lengths to which survivors will go to hold on to memories, money, life and love. *New York Magazine* wrote that **Three Viewings** is "essential viewing..." and *Variety* stated that the monologues are "...beautifully spun tales that have the cumulative impact - and surprise payoffs... of one of the season's small indisputable triumphs."

[www.mmstageco.com](http://www.mmstageco.com)

For all up-to-date MMSC news!

### Romancing The Word - (cont. from pg. 1, col.1)

Alas, as you know, the course of true love . . . But now for the good news:

We are on the verge of announcing the winners in our first **Vanguard Voices of the Hudson Valley Poetry Contest**; later this year we will publish and perform the best of the more than 200 poems submitted to us.

More good news: The first week in October we are featuring **The Ordinary Living**, the newly published poems of the extraordinary Newburgh writer, Barbara Adams. Barbara was an accomplished writer and a published poet long before we discovered her (or, rather, she discovered us). Now she is a regular performer and contributor to our programs.

And still more good news: In November we will be presenting new work by our prolific playwright/dramaturg-in-residence, actor and peripatetic teacher, Laurence Carr. Larry, a published and professionally performed playwright, has written **Scrabble and Tabouli** in honor of our Tenth Anniversary Season.

We will also be presenting several new plays not heretofore seen in these parts.

And so the romance continues....Stay tuned.

Bob

## The Ordinary Living *An Evening of the Work of Barbara Adams*



BARBARA ADAMS

PHOTO: MARLIS MOMBER

### ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY!

Saturday, October 2, 2004 @ 8 PM

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church,  
161 Main Street, New Paltz

Admission: \$7

\* \* \*

In 1999, MMSC presented the premiere of Barbara Adams' one-act play, **God's Lioness and the Crow: Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes**, and so began a wonderful creative collaboration. Her numerous other creations for MMSC include an evening of Pulitzer Prize-winning poets and an MMSC's Tenth Anniversary Season program: **The Poetry of War** (see page 3, col. 1).

"Writing connects me to the world," Barbara says, and the publication of her most recent volume of poetry, *The Ordinary Living*, was a not-to-be-missed opportunity for MMSC to connect to Barbara with a program based on her intensely personal work. This program will evoke Adams' vivid voice and extensive range. Her writing arises from the "ordinary" events in a woman's life: love, marriage, parents, children, loss, work, joy, death, sexuality - the hallmarks of an identity that give life meaning.

Ms. Adams received her Ph.D. from NYU and she recently retired as Professor of English at Pace University in order to write full-time. She lives in Newburgh and she is the judge in this year's *Vanguard Voices of the Hudson Valley* poetry contest for MMSC.

Readers for this extraordinary evening will be Ruth Berg, Christine Crawfis, RoseMarie Navarra and Heather Berry.

Don't miss this opportunity to experience the words of Barbara Adams.

**PROLOGUE** is written and edited by Christine Crawfis and Nan Alderson; Bob Miller is a contributing writer.

**PROLOGUE** is published by:

**Mohonk Mountain Stage Company**

**Post Office Box 507**

**New Paltz, NY 12561**

**845-255-3102**

**e-mail: [info@mmstageco.com](mailto:info@mmstageco.com)**

**Mohonk Mountain Stage Company**  
**Fall '04 Season Schedule**  
*MMSC's Special Tenth Anniversary Celebration Season*

**October**

**Saturday, October 2 at 8 p.m.**

**The Ordinary Living - The Work of Barbara Adams**

St. Andrew's Church, Main Street, New Paltz

Admission \$7



**Sat., Oct. 16, Thurs., Oct 21, Fri., Oct. 22**

**and Sat., Oct. 23 at 8 PM**

**Humble Boy** by Charlotte Jones

St. Andrew's Church, Main Street, New Paltz

Admission \$10



**Friday, October 29 at 8 PM**

**The Price** by Arthur Miller

Unison Arts & Learning Center

Mountain Rest Road, New Paltz

Admission \$9 for Unison members, \$12 for non-members, \$5 students (with ID)

**November**

**Friday, November 5 at 8 PM**

**The Poetry of War**

Unison Arts & Learning Center

Mountain Rest Road, New Paltz

Admission \$9 for Unison members and \$12 for non-members; \$5 students (with ID)

**Saturday, November 6 at 8 PM**

**Three Viewings** by Jeffrey Hatcher

St. Andrew's Church, Main Street, New Paltz

Admission \$10

**Saturday, November 13 at 8 PM**

**Scrabble and Tabouli —**

**New Work from Laurence Carr**

St. Andrew's Church, Main Street, New Paltz

Admission \$7

**Saturday, November 20 at 8 PM**

**God's Man In Texas** by David Rambo

St. Andrew's Church, Main Street, New Paltz

Admission \$7

**December**

**Saturday, December 4 at 8 PM**

**New York Writing**

(Including winners from the 2004 Vanguard Voices of the Hudson Valley Poetry Contest)

St. Andrew's Church, Main Street, New Paltz

Admission \$7

**Friday, December 10 and  
Saturday, December 11 at 8 PM**

**A Celebration of Old Time Radio**

Unison Arts & Learning Center

Mountain Rest Road, New Paltz

Admission \$9 for Unison members, \$12 for non-members, \$5 students (with ID)