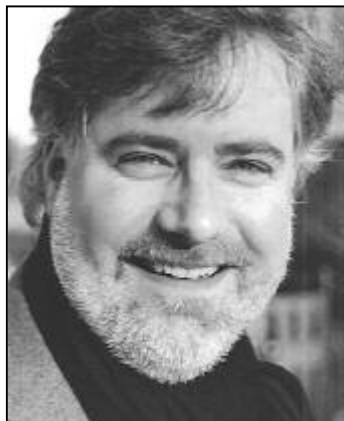


Shadowland

Burke New Shadowland Director

The Board of Directors at *Shadowland Theatre*, the professional nonprofit Actor's Equity theatre company in the Mid-Hudson Valley, announced the appointment of **Brendan Burke** (photo below) as the *Shadowland Theatre's* new Producing Artistic Director, effective December 1st. Succeeding William Morris, Artistic Director since 2000, Mr. Burke will be the fourth artistic director in the theater's 20-year history, being founded in 1984 by a group of New York City actors.

A professional actor and director who has had a strong



connection to *Shadowland* for the past 10 years, most recently as Associate Managing Director, Mr. Burke directed the July 2004 production of David Auburn's *Proof* while running the theater's acting classes. He has performed regionally and nationally as an actor (he is a proud member of Actor's Equity Association) and holds a degree in theater from Geneseo State University.

Chairman of the Board William Collier III said,

"We were impressed by Brendan's longtime commitment to the theater and, frankly, it's time that he came out of the 'shadows,' so to speak. His experience, talent, connections throughout the New York City theater community, and ties to the Hudson Valley performing arts community make him the right choice. We are pleased that he has accepted the position and we look forward to working with him to turn his vision for *Shadowland* into reality, both on and off stage."

"Big theater in America isn't all that appealing anymore," says Burke. "*Shadowland's* mission is perfectly in tune with the responsibility of today's small professional regional theatre – to elevate and educate its audience as well as entertain them. The most exciting, important plays no longer start on Broadway. They are produced in smaller venues like *Shadowland*."

A member of Actor's Equity, with over 15 years of experience as a director, actor, and acting teacher, he has developed and directed new plays at Turnip Theater Co., the Times Square-based theater in New York City known for an award-winning 15-minute play festival and new American works. At *Shadowland*, Mr. Burke has acted and directed in a number of productions, including *Mystery of Irma Vep*, *Terra Nova*, *Compleat Works of Wllm Shkspr* (Abridged), and *Bluff* with John Astin.


Shadowland Theatre is the leading professional not-for-profit Actor's Equity company in the Mid-Hudson Valley/Catskill Mountain region. Located 90 miles from New York City in Ellenville, NY, *Shadowland* was named "Best Theatre 2004" in the "Best in the Valley" awards program covering 10 counties from Albany to Westchester by *Hudson Valley Magazine*.

Founded in 1984 by a group of artists from New York City led by original Artistic Director Ron Marquette, *Shadowland* performs in a restored 1920s Art Deco vaudeville/movie house converted to a 148-seat stadium-

seating theater with many of its original art deco features. *Shadowland's* programming regularly features a variety of comedies, dramas, musicals and new plays.


The theater works under contract with Actor's Equity Association (the union of professional actors and stage managers) and produces a mainstage season of five plays from May through September. The company is regularly lauded by critics for its lavish technical elements, exciting programming, and exceptional acting and directing.

This year the *Shadowland* was also the recipient of a \$47,000 matching grant from the Catskill Watershed Corporation. These funds, and the matching monies raised by *Shadowland Artists, Inc.*, and a \$20,000 member item from Sen. Bonacic, will be used for badly needed capital improvements, including renovation of the aging building structure, new stage lighting, and a sound system.

Beyond expanding *Shadowland's* subscriber base, Mr. Burke plans to enhance the theater's five-play season programming with a reading series of new plays, expanded education and outreach programs and, to keep the theatre active year-round, development of a winter *Lobby Concert Series* featuring acoustic musical acts in a café setting in the theater's restored Art Deco lobby. (Food and drink will be available on site, prepared by Ellenville's hot new restaurant, *Aroma Thyme*.) The first concert, scheduled for Saturday, December 11th, at 7 PM, features New York City-based singer/songwriter Megan Cary, named Billboard Magazine's Critic's Choice for Best Newcomer, 1998. Ms. Cary tours throughout the U.S. and has received raves from press nationwide. Billboard Magazine has noted, "Can the world stand another sensitive, storytelling troubadour? If the artist in question is Cary, the answer is a resounding 'Yes!'" For more info on Meghan Cary, go to www.meghancary.com. Tickets are \$12 and reservations are recommended. Call the Box Office at 845-647-5511. (See article on next page) For information, visit www.shadowlandtheatre.org. 

Shadowland Offers Gift Certificates

Shadowland Theatre announces the sale of Holiday Gift Certificates good for the 2005 summer season. Gift Certificates can be purchased at the theatre Box Office or over the phone at 845-647-5511. They are available in all denominations and can be used for single tickets or for an entire season subscription, allowing the bearer admission to all five mainstage shows next summer!

A season subscription is available for \$100 each or single tickets for \$23 each. Pick up the perfect gift for your boss, your parents, or your secret Santa! They are printed on attractive holiday paper and can be sent to you or directly to the recipient; just call the Box Office and give the gift of the arts from Ellenville's own *Shadowland Theatre*, winner of *Hudson Valley Magazine's* "Best Theatre of 2004." 

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