

Shadowland

Shadowland's 2005 Season

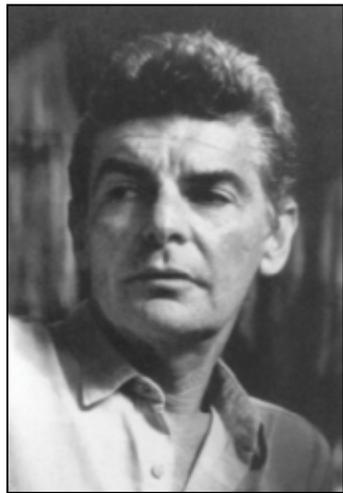
by **Brendan Burke**

Producing Artistic Director, Shadowland Theatre

Hello! It's my great pleasure to write to you in my first year as *Shadowland's* Artistic Director. I've enjoyed being affiliated with *Shadowland* for over 10 years and I'm excited to begin my new duties. Ellenville and *Shadowland* have been such important places in my life and I look forward to leading the theatre in this period of rebirth for this great community.

Shadowland is entering its 21st season of bringing fine professional theatre to Ellenville, and a great deal of the credit for the theatre's longevity goes to our contributors, who have shown wonderful support throughout the years. As always, donors get priority seating in the first three rows, special program listing, and the donation part of your subscription is tax deductible. But most importantly, you get to enjoy the work of "The Best Theatre of the Hudson Valley" (Hudson Valley Magazine) with the pride of knowing your generosity is making it happen.

The Theatre turns 85 this year and the cost of heating, maintaining, and improving it increases every year. Public funding for the arts seems to diminish more and more (county funding to us was cut 60% this year!), and so we need your support now more than ever. *Shadowland* relies on donations for half of its annual income.



This season looks to be one of the most diverse and exciting in recent years. The highlight of the season will be our staging of Arthur Miller's classic drama, "All My Sons." As you probably know, Arthur Miller died recently and it is with great pride that we offer this selection in honor of one of the three greatest American playwrights. And we're overwhelmed to announce that joining us in our efforts will be Hollywood veterans Richard Benjamin (*photo, left*) and Paula Prentiss (*photo, top*

right) starring in our production!

To open the season May 27 to June 12, I've chosen the Off-Broadway contemporary hit "Lobby Hero" by Academy Award-nominated screenwriter (Gangs of New York, You Can Count on Me) Kenneth Lonergan, directed by Michael LaFleur. "Lobby Hero" was a big hit off-Broadway in 2001 and is part comedy, part drama, part thriller, and chronicles the life of an apartment building security guard who gets caught up in a murder investigation in the middle of his lobby and his life and must make decisions that test his loyalties to his job, his friends, and himself. "Lobby Hero confirms Kenneth Lonergan as a comic wizard," wrote New York Magazine.

The second show of the season, from June 17 to July 10, will be the hit Irish comedy "Stones in His Pockets" by Marie Jones, which won the Olivier Award for Best Comedy and earned three Tony nominations. Two actors attack 15 roles in a hilarious, knee-slapping comedy that also offers a serious look at a rural Irish community gone

mad when a big Hollywood production company comes to town to make a major motion picture. According to the New York Times, "Marie Jones makes her own distinctive contribution to the fine Irish art of theatrical storytelling." I will direct.

"All My Sons" (July 15 – August 7), the 20th century classic play that first made Arthur Miller famous, stars actor/director Richard Benjamin (Goodbye Columbus, Catch-22, Mermaids, Made in America, The Goodbye Girl), a Golden Globe winner for Sunshine Boys, and Paula Prentiss (Where the Boys Are, Last of the Red Hot Lovers, The Parallax View, The Stepford Wives). This powerful drama, to be directed by James Glossman, shows the underbelly of the American dream, a theme Miller revisited throughout his career.

The musical this year is not to be missed. Straight from her off-Broadway run in the same production, the brilliant Miche Braden (*photo, below*) will star as Bessie Smith in "The Devil's Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith" by Angelo Parra (August 12 – September 4). Of her performance, the NY Times raved: "Miche Braden fills every molecule of airspace with the mordant joy of the Blues!" And we are very excited to bring her incredible talents to Ellenville.

Closing out the season (September 9 – September 25) and ushering us into fall and Halloween will be the terrifying thriller, "The Woman in Black," adapted by Stephen Mallatratt from the book by Susan Hill. "The Woman in Black" is the second-longest running show in London and has been scaring audiences out of their wits for over 13 years. Using the talents of two actors, the most basic of scenic tricks, and some pretty spooky sound cues, come get scared out of your seat in this classic ghost play... if you dare. A scarred man must retell the horrors he's witnessed to exorcise his demons. According to London's Daily Telegraph, "This is the most brilliantly effective spine chiller you will ever encounter. If you haven't seen this show yet, you are missing a treat." John Wade will direct.

Season subscriptions and single-performance tickets are available through the *Shadowland Theatre* Box Office at **157 Canal Street**, Ellenville NY, by phone (**845-647-5511**), or online at <http://www.shadowlandtheatre.org>.

Shadowland is seeking volunteers to help out with its upcoming season. If you'd like to volunteer as little as one hour a week, your help would be greatly appreciated! Ushers would start ½ hour before curtain. If you are interested, please contact Alyssa Tullin at **845-647-5511**.

Showtimes are **8 PM Thursday – Saturday, 2 PM on Sundays**. The 2005 season runs from **May 27th through September 25th**.

