

MOHONK MOUNTAIN STAGE COMPANY, INC.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mohonk Mountain Stage Company Presents

Born Yesterday

by Garson Kanin

on October 15, 20, 21 & 22, 2005

(Please note: A digital photograph is available on the MMSC web site

(<http://www.mmstageco.com/news/releases.html>) or by request.)

New Paltz, NY –The Readers Theatre Group of Mohonk Mountain Stage Company’ will present **Born Yesterday**, a comedy by Garson Kanin, on Saturday, October 15, Thursday, October 20, Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22, 2005 at 8 PM at St. Andrew’s Church, 165 Main Street in New Paltz. Admission is \$10. For reservations, call MMSC’s offices at (845) 255-3102.

Born Yesterday, written by Mr. Kanin in 1945, is an American comedy that pokes fun at “bribery, corruption and government between friends,” and that points a finger at greedy corporate interests and the elected legislators that they buy and sell. A Pygmalion story collides with high stake politics in Kanin’s classic comedy about a corrupt business tycoon and his show-business girlfriend run amok in the nation’s capital.

The play premiered on Broadway in 1946 and ran for 1,642 performances and was re-born as the popular movie which made Judy Holliday a star, alongside Broderick Crawford. Piqued by corruption scandals over influence-peddling during President Truman’s administration, Kanin’s script sought to sound the alarm about the direction in which our democracy seemed to be heading - the same democracy which so many had just fought and died for in World War II. A great many playwrights and screenwriters of Kanin’s day championed an individual who would stand up, usually alone, and speak the truth. The beauty of **Born Yesterday** is that the playwright makes it clear that to have such champions in our midst requires an enlightened electorate, and Mr. Kanin goes on to place the responsibility for that awakened state on the shoulders of each individual in our democracy. He also manages to pull off this civic’s lesson with uproarious laughter.

Robert Maynard Hughes said, “The death of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush. It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference, and undernourishment.” Or as Billie, the heroine of **Born Yesterday**, puts it, “Look, Harry, the idea is you can only get away with your kind of shenanigans if nobody cares about it.”

MMSC’s version of **Born Yesterday** will be unlike any you’ve ever heard before. MMSC will feature favorites Bruce Pileggi as Harry Brock, William Connors as that has-been lawyer Ed Devery and Doug

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Wooley as the corrupt Senator Hedges. We welcome newcomers Rosalind Ashford as Billie, Bill Peckham as Paul Verrall, Julie Wooley as Mrs. Hedges and Amos Newcombe as Eddie. RoseMarie Navarra makes a special appearance as Helen.

Mohonk Mountain Stage Company is an independent theater company that has been operating in the Hudson Valley since 1994. MMSC celebrates ideas, imagination and ingenuity through its award-winning Readers Theatre Group and Theatre For Young Audiences, a semi-annual literary journal and an annual theatre scholarship award. They have garnered numerous awards from The Taconic Newspapers and Times Herald Record including Best Theatrical Event of the Year, Best Play and Best Actor. Their Theatre for Young Audiences productions such as **Brave Little Tailor**, **The Jungle Book** and **The Frog Prince** 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 as well as local and regional schools.

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