

MOHONK MOUNTAIN STAGE COMPANY, INC.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Mohonk Mountain Stage Company Presents
the Hudson Valley Premiere of
An Almost Holy Picture
by Heather McDonald
on December 3, 2005*

*Please note: PDF copy of this release
is available on the MMSC web site*

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

New Paltz, NY – Mohonk Mountain Stage Company will present the Hudson Valley premiere of **An Almost Holy Picture** by Heather McDonald, on Saturday, December 3, 2005 at 8 PM at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church at 163 Main Street in New Paltz. Admission is \$10. For reservations, call MMSC's offices at (845) 255-3102. Sometimes poignant, sometimes comic, **An Almost Holy Picture** is freely drawn from Pamela Ward's story "The Hairy Little Girl" and is an evocative telling of one man's quest for spiritual comfort in the face of uncompromising darkness.

Directed by MMSC's Christine Crawfis and with MMSC newcomer Paul Coleman in the starring role, **An Almost Holy Picture** is the story of former minister Samuel Gentle, who has heard God's call, but can't understand God's mysteries. A tragic bus accident and the birth of his daughter, Ariel, with a rare medical condition have led Samuel on a restless spiritual journey, struggling to comprehend his anger and reclaim his faith. As Ariel grows into a child of transcendent inner beauty and strength, Samuel discovers what is most holy.

"Ms. McDonald writes beautifully... One of the best of the season." Clive Barnes, *The New York Post*

"Heather McDonald creates a vision that brims with imagination, humor and hope." *USA Today*

Playwright Heather McDonald has garnered several awards for **An Almost Holy Picture**, which premiered at La Jolla Playhouse in 1995 and was named by the *Los Angeles Times* as the Best New Play of the Year. McDonald received the National Arts Club's prestigious Kesselring Award for Best New American Play in 1999, and was nominated for the 2002 Pulitzer Prize. McDonald's other works include

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Press Release
An Almost Holy Picture
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When Grace Comes In, Faulkner's Bicycle, Dream of a Common Language and the libretto for the opera **The End of the Affair**. McDonald and the Cleveland Playhouse were recently awarded a collaboration grant from the NEA/TCG Theatre Residency Program for Playwrights.

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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