

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**

Post Mortem

by A R Gurney

on Saturday, April 21, 2007

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New Paltz, NY – Mohonk Mountain Stage Company will present the Hudson Valley premiere of **Post Mortem** by A R Gurney on Saturday, April 21st at 8 PM at St. Andrew's Church on Main Street in New Paltz. Admission is \$10. For reservations, please call 255-3102.

A. R. Gurney has written a play about the play that he might have written. Set in the not-too-distant future **Post Mortem**, as accurately appraised by one admirer, has "turned the world upside down." It is the comic story of a lowly lecturer in drama at a faith-based state university in the Midwest, and an enthusiastic student more interested in his teacher than the theatre. They become embroiled in the discovery of a play by an obscure late 20th century playwright (named of all things, A.R. Gurney) This masterpiece is seemingly responsible for, among other things, an effective universal health care system, world peace, smooth-running public transportation and significant declines in global warming and the divorce rate. When the civil authorities destroy the script, these two must piece together the remnants of the play and with it the future of a world gone mad.

"Principally known as a practitioner of the 'middle-class comedy of manners' ... in recent years he (Gurney) has used the stage for cathartic venting about a world that seems determined to destroy itself...but this latest work deals specifically and wistfully with the role of drama in a culture that has increasingly little respect for it.....it's hard not to be infected by the relish with which Mr Gurney rewrites his own past, as well as invents a glorious posterity for himself. Early in the play Dexter talks about coming upon a rare copy of Mr Gurney's privately printed autobiography, which reveals that he had affairs with many famous actresses, including Cameron Diaz and both Audrey and Catherine Hepburn. Hey, if you're going to be the author of your own life, you might as well make it juicy."

Ben Brantley, *The New York Times*

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Mohonk Mountain Stage Company
Press Release
Post Mortem
April 2007

MMSC's production of A R Gurney's **Post Mortem** is directed by Christine Crawfis and stars Elizabeth Barrows, Jack Kroll and Vivian Lambertson.

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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