

**THE HARC FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES
2008 HARC AWARD TO EMERGING PLAYWRIGHT**

LOS ANGELES (December 30, 2008) – The HARC Foundation has announced that Jack Raymond, who resides in both LA and NY, is the recipient of a 2008 HARC Award as winner of HARC's 2008 Emerging Playwright Competition for his stage play, *Dénouement*. Mr. Raymond receives a cash award of \$2500.00 and a professional staged reading of his play in 2009. The winning play was selected by five judges, including three theatrical professionals, one HARC Patron and one HARC Board Member, from more than eighty entries received from playwrights throughout the country.

Dénouement is the story of an old left-wing union organizer as he celebrates his last birthday with his estranged son. He believes he has wasted his life. Everything he has struggled for has come to nothing. Yet, with the help of his hospice nurse, his dead wife and plenty of humor he comes to terms with his life, his son and the end of the era he helped shape. Mr. Raymond considers *Dénouement* to be a semi-biographical play. His motivation for writing this comedy-drama was to finalize his own troubled relationship with his father, a left-wing organizer, as well as to explore the process of dying.

Mr. Raymond was born in Detroit, Michigan. He graduated from Wayne State University and earned his Masters Degree in Linguistics from the University of Michigan. He is married with grown children and has traveled extensively, especially in India, Spain and Israel where he worked on a Kibbutz. Today, he divides his time between New York and Los Angeles.

Mr. Raymond has been a writer all of his working life, starting out as an advertising copywriter at Campbell/Ewald, Y & R and Grey Advertising where he wrote copy for major automotive accounts. He later worked at Leo Burnett in Chicago and as Creative Director at Foote Cone & Belding and Tracy-Locke Advertising Agencies in Los Angeles. He has also written several screenplays and his script, *Myron the First*, was optioned for production and scheduled to be directed by Hal Ashby prior to Mr. Ashby's untimely death. In addition, he taught advertising and creative writing at USC and UCLA.

During recent years, Mr. Raymond has devoted himself solely to writing plays. His last four plays have received enthusiastic reviews from theater professionals including The Royal Court Theatre and Soho Theatre in London, Florida Studio Theatre, Denver Center Theatre, The Trinity Repertory Company of Providence, the University of Utah Theatre Department and The Actor's Studio in Los Angeles. His goal is to work with a team of theater professionals to explore a new, more involving, interactive kind of theater, where the audience is treated as a participant as well as an observer. All of his plays have been written with this end in mind.