

THE HARC FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES

ROBERT MICHAEL MORRIS

2009 EMERGING PLAYWRIGHT HARC AWARD RECIPIENT – Runner-Up



Robert Michael Morris was born in Kentucky, entered a religious Order of Men (The Society of Mary) where he taught for ten years in various High Schools, received an MFA in Playwriting at Catholic University of America, for two years toured the U.S. with National Players – America’s oldest classical touring company, taught college for thirteen years in two different states as Director of Theatre/Performing Arts, lived in New York as a struggling actor for ten years, worked briefly for a dot com company where he was supposed to become a millionaire in a year (he didn’t) and finally moved to California where he taught high school in two different private girl’s academies. Then life got interesting.

After losing his teaching position due to financial cut-backs, he auditioned for a role in the HBO comedy, THE COMEBACK, and became a regular cast member of the show – working with Lisa Kudrow, Michael Patrick King and Malin Ackerman. It was also the first show he auditioned for in California. He later worked on ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT, WILL & GRACE, HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER, THE CLASS and BROTHERS AND SISTERS. Then there was a two year drought. During all this time he has been writing plays in every form – full lengths, one acts, musicals, monologues, one woman shows and the ten minute form - some comedies, some serious. Many of his scripts are historically based and are carefully researched. He has plays about Anna Magnani, Alice Roosevelt Longworth, Michelangelo, Edith Sitwell, Pope John Paul the First and Matisse.

His book of forty-five short stories in verse, An American Scrapbook, was published by Incarnate Word Press and creates the life of a mythical American town at the turn of the century. Each poem/ short story is based on a photograph of a person taken from an antique album purchased at a flea market. As we discover what is going on in their mind while the photograph is being taken, why they are wearing what they wore, what secrets their faces hide, we come to see how little human nature has changed. They are warm, funny, charming and sometimes tragic.

He is currently working in New York as a regular cast member of the new FOX sit com, RUNNING WILDE, with Will Arnet and Keri Russell. He will be in New York City until the end of November and if the critics and audiences are kind, until the end of February.

Though he seems like a gypsy moving from place to place, his soul is firmly anchored in the theatre. His goal is to tell stories that resonate with honesty and emotion. He believes that imagination is the most amazing and wonderful thing ever created and by using his he can inspire an audience to use theirs and at the same time instruct and entertain them as they see the life upon the stage unfold mysteriously before them. He is honored to have BRINGING OUT THE BEAUTY presented by The HARC Foundation and welcomes any feedback from audience members.