

DISCOVERING NEW

# Mysteries

INTERNATIONAL MYSTERY WRITERS FESTIVAL

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VETERAN BROADWAY PRODUCER ZEV BUFFMAN ANNOUNCES  
INTERNATIONAL MYSTERY WRITERS' FESTIVAL TO PREMIERE 4 AGATHA  
CHRISTIE CLASSICS AS PART OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MYSTERY FESTIVAL  
AUGUST 12-16, 2009 IN OWENSBORO, KY.

**OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY** --- Zev Buffman, whose colorful Broadway career delivered such theatrical milestones as Elizabeth Taylor's Broadway debut in "Little Foxes," Andrew Lloyd-Weber's "Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," Muhammad Ali in the musical "Buck White," and Dustin Hoffman in "Jimmy Shine," announces the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Mystery Writers Festival opening August 11 through August 16, 2009 At RiverPark Center in Owensboro, Kentucky.

During the past five years, Buffman shifted his attention to Kentucky, having launched over a dozen national, international Broadway tours and new mysteries and produced the now acclaimed International Mystery Writers' Festival.

Over the past 18 months, the Mystery Festival has hosted such talent as Gene Hackman, Mary Higgins Clark, Josh Hutcherson (Journey to Center of the Earth), Anthony E. Zuiker (creator of *C.S.I.*), Rene' Balcer (creator of *Law and Order :Criminal Intent*), Bill Link (creator - *Columbo* and *Murder She Wrote*) Sue Grafton (The Alphabet Mysteries) and dozen of others. All took active parts in a number of duties & activities during the Festivals

The "Discovered" new works from the festival have garnered multiple Edgar Award nominations and wins in 2008 & 2009. Also, Angela Lansbury was the first recipient of the Festival's "ANGIE" award as First Lady of Mystery 2007 presented by Kentucky's Governor Fletcher. Mary Higgins Clark was crowned as First Lady of Mystery in 2008; Kentucky's First Lady Jane Beshear presented her with the award from the stage of RiverPark Center.

The 2009 Festival will premiere four Agatha Christie classic mysteries. These four exclusive works are "Three Blind Mice," "Yellow Iris," "Butter in a Lordly Dish," and "Personal Call." Mathew Prichard, Agatha Christie's grandson, says "I'm delighted that Zev's team are putting on my grandmother's wonderful BBC plays which number among some of her best works. I'm sure that the USA live audience will enjoy them enormously." The shows will be presented as two double billed plays during the course of the festival.

- "Three Blind Mice" was part of a May 30, 1947 evening of program in honor of the eightieth birthday of Queen Mary. The BBC approached the Queen some months prior and asked for her special favorites. Amongst a selection of music and variety, she requested a new mystery by Agatha Christie, a writer the Queen deeply admired. The world's longest running play "The Mousetrap" was inspired by "Three Blind Mice".



- “Yellow Iris” was first presented on the BBC National Program in 1937. The main part of the story takes place in a London restaurant. The play is unusual in that the producer, Douglas Moodie, interspersed the action with the performances of the cabaret artists who were supposedly on the bill at the restaurant. It features the famous Belgian Inspector Hercule Poirot, one of Christie’s audiences’ favorite detectives.
- “Butter in a Lordly Dish” was first performed on the BBC on Tuesday, January 13, 1948 in a strand entitled Mystery Playhouse presents, “The Detection Club.” The play title comes from the Bible: Judges, 5:25: "He asked water, and she gave him milk; she brought forth butter in a lordly dish". "He" refers to Sisera and "she" is Jael. (This work was never published before).
- “Personal Call”, the last thriller, was presented on the BBC Light Program on Monday, May 31, 1954. The play reuses the legendary character of Inspector Narracott from the 1931 novel “The Sittaford Mystery.” (This work was never published before)

The Producer/director team of these classic works will be third year International Mystery Writers’ Festival veterans and legendary Grammy winning David Ossman and Judith Walcut.

Amazingly, the Festival traditionally draws 50% of its visitors from out of State. Hotels, car rentals and restaurants achieve record business. Several hundred people are employed during the star studded festival.

Other events surrounding the festival include: classic outdoor movies series, Celebrity master classes, writing workshops, guest speakers, meet and greets, book signings and the Sunday, August 16 Angie Awards - named after Angela Lansbury.

This year’s recipient of the coveted “First Lady of Mystery” Award is acclaimed Kentucky’s own author Sue Grafton. An invitation went out to KY First Lady Jane Beshear to repeat the honor of the presenter. Sue Grafton is also this year’s “Grand Master” Winner of the Mystery Writers of America in New York City.

The Festival’s RiverPark Center will again host its Young Adult Theatre Academy (Y.A.T.A). The Academy gives university and high-school students opportunities to completely immerse themselves within the creation of new live theatre. Y.A.T.A. students come from around the country seeking real-world insight into their development as theatre artists, technicians, writers & designers. The goal is to directly introduce students to practical theatre experience amidst award winning professionals of Broadway-caliber productions. The programs are college accredited.

For more information, visit [www.newmysteries.org](http://www.newmysteries.org).

*Now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, RiverPark Center is a first-class regional entertainment complex. Six professional, international touring musical productions have been built here, making Owensboro, Ky., one of the top five communities outside New York City for building and premiering these shows prior to their U.S. or Asian tours.*

*The nearly 100,000 square-foot facility includes a state-of-the-art 1,500-seat Cannon Hall, the 300-seat black-box Jody Berry Cabaret Theatre, the 1,000 capacity outdoor riverfront BB&T Plaza and the International Bluegrass Music Museum.*



*The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, supports RiverPark Center with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.*