

Heritage Hunt Little Theater PLAY TIME March 2018



HHlittletheater.org

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday March 13: The March General Meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 13**, at 7 pm in the **Marsh Mansion**. The program will be “**Playwriting 101**,” a look at the elements of a play and the opportunity to use our group imagination to explore the use of conflict, setting, and dialogue. **NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE AND LOCATION.**

Monday, April 9, Tuesday, April 10, and Wednesday, April 11: Spring Production ***At First Sight***

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PREZ SEZ



This is an exciting time to be a member of the HHLT. There are more and more opportunities for folks to get involved; and they are.

Our membership is growing and new ideas are flowing. The HHLT is simply becoming more and more fun! So let's keep it up and invite a friend or neighbor to join in.

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HHLT Scholarship Program

HHLT announced the establishment of a \$1000 scholarship to be awarded to a senior drama student. Five drama students will nominated by teachers at Charles Colgan High School for the Performing Arts in Manassas. The winner will be selected based on his/her application and teacher recommendations. The recipient will be announced at the May meeting.



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Spring Production Well Under Way

The cast has begun memorizing their lines and rehearsing for HHLT's Spring production of *At First Sight* by Annie Pie. With Tom Taggart directing, Ted Day constructing the set, Mary Glascock as Producer, Sandy Thompson and Helen Esposito as Stage Managers, and John Bisaga and LSTV crew backing us up, it's sure to be a great show.

Tina Mullins-----Julia

Georgiana Ide-----Verna

Bob Bowman-----Philip

Paula James-----Faye

Walt Meyer-----Curtis

Gini McCardle-----Zelda

Rob Brock-----Reporter

**ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS
AND NEIGHBORS TO COME TO
OUR PLAY. THEY'LL ENJOY IT!
USE THE PINK FORM**



Don't forget that your
2018 dues (\$10 for
individual or couple) are due.

Lifetime members are those who have been
members for 12 or more years. If you are
not sure if you have paid yet or not, consult
Membership Chair Ginny McCardle.



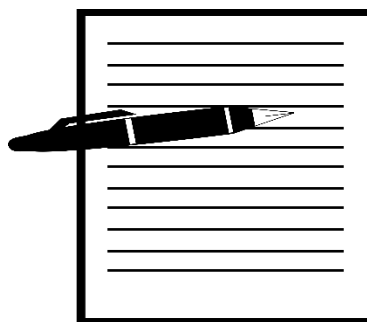
2018 HHLT PLAYWRITING CONTEST

Little Theater is sponsoring a
community-wide contest for play
writing. Open to anyone in Heritage
Hunt, all you need is a dramatic or a
comedic story idea, a creative way of
expressing it, and a pen or pencil (or
keyboard) to finish it off. Plays are
not limited to any particular style or
category and can be presented in one
or two act format. Entries can be
created by an individual or by a
group, provided each contributor
receives appropriate billing. Visit the
HHLT website (hhlittletheater.org) for
rules and entry form. Deadline is Dec.
31, 2018.

HAPPY WRITING!!!



Recently we have received word of the
death of longtime HHLT member Mel
Ross. He passed away at 91 in Norwalk
CT on January 22. His wife Nanette
resides at 162 New Canaan Ave.
Norwalk CT 06850.



ACTIVITIES GROUPS

Are you interested in getting involved
in some of HHLT's special interest
committees? Below is a list of
committees (and contacts) you can
sign up for:

Off Ballroom Players: Kathy Carrico
Play Writing Contest: Marian Posdamer
Play Reading /Review: Gene Schmiel
Excursions: Val Bowman
Traveling Theater Troupe: Ina Mayer
Activities: Val Bowman



Irish Playwright and Novelist Maeve Binchy

Maeve Binchy was born on 28 May 1939

in [Dalkey](#). Educated at St Anne's and later at Holy Child Convent. She went on to study at [University College Dublin](#) (where she earned a bachelor's degree in history. She worked as a teacher of French, Latin, and history, then a journalist at [The Irish Times](#),^[2] and later became a [writer of novels](#), [short stories](#), and [dramatic works](#).

Her parents were Catholics and Binchy attended a [convent school](#).^[12] However, a trip to Israel profoundly affected her career. As she confided in a Q&A with *Vulture*:

In 1963, I worked in a Jewish school in Dublin, teaching French with an Irish accent to kids, primarily Lithuanians. The parents there gave me a trip to Israel as a present. I had no money, so I went and worked in a [kibbutz](#) – plucking chickens, picking oranges. My parents were very nervous; here I was going out to the Middle East by myself. I wrote to them regularly, telling them about the kibbutz. My father and mother sent my letters to a newspaper, which published them. So I thought, It's not so hard to be a writer. Just write a letter home. After that, I started writing other travel articles.

Binchy, described as "six feet tall, rather stout, and garrulous", although she actually grew to 6'1", confided that growing up in Dalkey, she never felt herself to be attractive; "as a plump girl I didn't start on an even footing to everyone else". After her mother's death, she expected to lead a life of spinsterhood, or as she expressed: "I expected I would live at home, as I always

did." She continued, "I felt very lonely, the others all had a love waiting for them and I didn't."

She ultimately encountered the love of her life, however; when recording a piece for *Woman's Hour* in London she met [children's author Gordon Snell](#), then a freelance producer with the [BBC](#). Their friendship blossomed into a cross-border romance, with her in Ireland and him in London, until she eventually secured a job in London through [The Irish Times](#). She and Snell married in 1977 and, after living in London for a time, moved to Ireland. They lived together in Dalkey, not far from where she had grown up, until Binchy's death. The following was her view of her husband, quoted in *The Irish Times* after her death:

“ (A) writer, a man I loved and he loved me and we got married and it was great and is still great. He believed I could do anything, just as my parents had believed all those years ago, and I started to write fiction and that took off fine. And he loved Ireland, and the fax was invented so we writers could live anywhere we liked, instead of living in London near publishers.

In 2002, Binchy "suffered a health crisis related to a heart condition", which inspired her to write *Heart and Soul*. The book about (what Binchy terms) "a heart failure clinic" in [Dublin](#) and the people involved with it, reflects many of her own experiences and observations in the hospital. Towards the end of her life, Binchy had the following message on her official website: "My health isn't so good these days and I can't travel around to meet people the way I used to. But I'm always delighted to hear from readers, even if it takes me a while to reply."

Binchy's first published book is a compilation of her newspaper articles titled *My First Book*. Published in 1970, it is now out of print. In all, Binchy published 16 novels, four short-story collections, a play and a novella. A 17th novel, [*A Week in Winter*](#), was published posthumously. Her literary career began with two books of short stories: *Central Line* (1978) and *Victoria Line* (1980). She published her debut novel [*Light a Penny Candle*](#) in 1982. In 1983, it sold for the largest sum ever paid for a first novel: £52,000. The timing was fortuitous, as Binchy and her husband were two months behind with the mortgage at the time. However, the prolific Binchy – who joked that she could write as fast as she could talk – ultimately became one of Ireland's richest women.^[1]

Her first book was rejected five times. She would later describe these rejections as "a slap in the face [...] It's like if you don't go to a dance you can never be rejected but you'll never get to dance either"

Five further novels were published before her death: [*Quentins*](#) (2002), [*Nights of Rain and Stars*](#) (2004), [*Whitethorn Woods*](#) (2006), [*Heart and Soul*](#) (2008), and [*Minding Frankie*](#) (2010).^[24] Her final novel, [*A Week in Winter*](#), was published posthumously in 2012.^{[14][52]}

Binchy wrote several dramas specifically for radio and the silver screen. Additionally, several of her novels and short stories were adapted for radio, film, and television..)

Maeve Binchy has the ability to allow readers to picture the world in which she creates, her ability to do this is the reason why she is one of the top five Irish writers. She also is one of very few authors who portray the Catholic church in a positive light.^[55]

In 1978, Binchy won a [*Jacob's Award*](#) for her [*RTE*](#) play, *Deeply Regretted By*.

In 1999, she received the [*British Book Award for Lifetime Achievement*](#). In 2000, she received a [*People of the Year Award*](#). In 2001, *Scarlet Feather* won the [*W H Smith Book Award for Fiction*](#), defeating works by [*Joanna Trollope*](#) and then reigning Booker winner [*Margaret Atwood*](#), amongst other contenders.^[10]

In 2007, she received the [*Irish PEN Award*](#), joining such luminaries as [*John B. Keane*](#), [*Brian Friel*](#), [*Edna O'Brien*](#), [*William Trevor*](#), [*John McGahern*](#) and [*Seamus Heaney*](#).^{[64][65][66]}

Binchy died on July 30, 2012 at 73.

Information from Wikipedia

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BRAIN TEASER



Can you identify the movie in which this leprechaun appeared? Email your answer to Kathryn at geneofva@gmail.com.

Heritage Hunt Little Theater

General Meeting February 15, 2018

President Bill Harrison called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

President's Report: Bill thanked the Activity Committee for hosting our 15th birthday party tonight. He reminded everyone that there were sign-ups on the back table.

Vice-President's Report: Tom Taggart updated everyone on the progress for the Spring production. The cast has been selected and rehearsals are set to begin. Bill announced that the Board has okayed the Fall Play for 2018. It will be the Odd Couple and will be directed by Marilyn Armon and Betty Hitchcock.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the Jan. 18, 2018 General Meeting were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy reported that the bank balance as of Jan. 31, 2017 stands at \$11,666.44. There was income of \$200 and expenses of \$105.70 for a new balance of \$11,760.74.

Membership Report: Ginny reported that if you have 12 years of consecutive membership in HHLT then you become a Life Time member and do not need to pay dues. There were 29 people in attendance for this meeting.

Activities Report: Val thanked Georgiana Ide for hosting the birthday party. She introduced her committee members. Val reported that March's meeting would be Tina Mullins talking to

us about the Art of Auditioning. It will begin at 6 PM due to a Concert Series performance scheduled for that night,

Communications Report: There was no report.

At Large Report: Marian reported that she and the Board have come up with guidelines for the HHLT Scholarship. The membership approved the Board proposal for a one-time \$1,000.00 scholarship for a drama student selected as follows. The \$1000 will be given this year to a senior drama student at the Charles Colgan Performing Arts High School in Manassas. The drama teacher will choose five Nominees and the Board will choose the recipient. We hope the winner and his/her parents can come to a meeting to accept the award.

Marian also announced the Play Writing Contest to begin later this year. The contest is open to all HH residents. She'd like some help on her committee to establish the rules and choose the winner.

There was no old or new business. **The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.**

Respectfully submitted, Joan Turner,
Secretary



