

ABOUT SEAN O'LEARY

Sean O'Leary is the author five plays three of which have received Equity productions. VALU-MART, is the 2007 winner of The Ruby Lloyd Apsey Award for plays confronting racial and ethnic issues, the winner of the West Virginia Writers Conference 2007 Best Play award, and was a finalist in the National Arts Club's Playwrights First competition. BENEATH SHELTON LAUREL was commissioned by The Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre where it played for 20 consecutive sold-out performances and won a National Endowment for the Arts "Access to Artistic Excellence" grant. POUND, about the poet Ezra Pound, won the Ostrander Award for Best New Play of the 2007 Memphis theatre season received its professional premiere at The Washington Stage Guild in Washington, DC. POUND has gone on to five other productions and numerous awards. CLAUDIE HUKILL received its professional premiere (under the title, RAIN IN THE HOLLOW) at Tri-State Actors Theater in New Jersey and has received many awards and productions. Sean is the 2004 winner of the West Virginia Commission on The Arts Fellowship for Drama and is listed on The Literary Map of West Virginia. He is a member of The Dramatists Guild of America and the Playwrights Forum of Washington, DC. He lives near Harpers Ferry, WV. Visit www.olearyonstage.com.



"The Rage on The Stage!"
Tony Kiss. *The Asheville Citizen-Times*

"... a powerful portrayal of the disasters of war, the struggle between conscience, obedience and duty... the very essence of drama."
Jim Cavener, *Citizen-Times*

BENEATH SHELTON LAUREL

Commissioned by The Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre where it ran for 20 consecutive sold-out performance, "Beneath Shelton Laurel" won a National Endowment for The Arts Access to Artistic Excellence grant and is the subject of a chapter in Professor John Inscoe's new book, "Race, War, and Remembrance in The Appalachian South". "Beneath Shelton Laurel" recently received a reading at Abingdon Theatre in New York and its second production at Playwrights Forum in Memphis.

Amid the privation brought about by the Civil War in the winter of 1863, a Confederate army regiment in the mountains of western North Carolina summarily executed thirteen civilians who were suspected of stealing supplies. Thirty years later the officers responsible for the massacre are reunited with the wife and mother of three of the victims as they try to come to terms with one another and with themselves. Jim Cavener of The Asheville Citizen-Times called BENEATH SHELTON LAUREL "a timely parable, giving cause to wonder how our contemporary war on terror will resonate in the history books."



"POUND is a wonderful piece of writing that challenges audiences to think and works on multiple levels, reminiscent at times of Chaim Potok's "The Chosen."

John Hayes, Drama Critic.
The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

POUND

Winner of The Ostrander Award as Best New Play of the 2006-2007 Memphis Theatre season. Winner of the Pittsburgh New Play Festival. Nominated by The Washington Stage Guild for the Williamstown Theatre Festival's L. Arnold Weissberger Award and the Humana Festival of New American Plays. Professional Premiere at The Washington Stage Guild (Washington, DC). Also produced by Gemini Theatre (Pittsburgh), Playwright's Forum (Memphis), Red Barn Theatre (Allison Park, PA), The Theater at Cherry Hill (Canton, Michigan), and Towngate Theatre (Wheeling, WV). Selected for a backer's audition at The National Arts Club, and for readings at Round House Theatre, Tri-State Actors Theater, and The Orlando Shakespeare Festival.

Ezra Pound was a great poet and literary critic as well as a fascist and anti-semitic. Charged with treason during World War II and judged insane, the boisterous Pound dominated St. Elizabeths psychiatric hospital much as he had the literary world until, at age 73, he suddenly retreated into an emotional shell from which he never fully emerged. The play, POUND, imagines what might have happened to irreversibly change the character of Ezra Pound.



“CLAUDIE HUKILL’s strong, distinctive characters and compelling dialogue first attracted me to the script. Subsequent focused reading revealed the play’s clear dramatic arc and powerful emotional depth.”

Nick Olcott, Round House Theatre. From his nominating letter to the Humana Festival of New American Plays

CLAUDIE HUKILL (formerly “Rain in The Hollows”)

Winner & Production –Pittsburgh New Play Festival; Winner – Charleston Stage Company New Play Project; Unanimous Selection – Barter Theatre Appalachian Festival of Plays & Playwrights; Nomination – Humana Festival of New American Plays; Professional Premiere – Tri-State Actors Theater; Production – Oglebay Institute Towngate Theatre; Production – Village Theater at Cherry Hill; Production – Red Barn Theatre; Selection – Round House Theatre New Voices Series; Finalist -- Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre; Finalist – Southeastern Theatre Conference; Finalist – YES Play Festival; Northern Kentucky University.

In *CLAUDIE HUKILL* a family in a remote West Virginia mining community is torn by a showdown between competing virtues. Through the lives of two brothers we experience the inherent tension that exists between the moral imperatives of conviction on the one hand, and humility on the other.

VALU-MART

Winner of the 2007 Ruby Lloyd Apsey Award for plays confronting racial issues presented by the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the winner of the West Virginia Writers Conference 2007 award for Best Play. A finalist in The National Arts Club’s Playwrights First competition.

Two black men – a former teacher who still cherishes the idealism of the civil rights era and a 20-year old high school dropout on probation for receiving stolen property – offer two compelling and profoundly conflicting perspectives on life when they and three other employees are suspected of theft and detained in the lunch room of a mass merchandise department store. Faced with intense questioning and strip searches, the five employees struggle to find a path to salvation in their shared crisis.



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