

What's Happenin': October 10 - 16

Written by Mike Schulz

Wednesday, 10 October 2007 02:06

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Othello, The Glass Menagerie, and All My Sons

Rock Island Masonic Temple, The Green Room, and St. Ambrose University

Starting Friday, October 12



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Between August 18 and October 11, I will have seen exactly three stage shows in 55 days, and if you, too, have been feeling the drought, know that October 12 brings with it three premieres within a figurative hop, skip, and jump of one another: St. Ambrose University's *All My Sons*, the Green Room's *The Glass Menagerie*, and the Prenzie Players' *Othello* (at the Rock Island Masonic Temple). Is it heresy to say that this is a theatrical convergence that's practically *biblical*?



You shouldn't need *my* help to tell you why the plays in this dramatic, accidental triad are worthy of note: Arthur Miller's *Salesman* preceded his *All My Sons* and *Death of a* *Salesman* won the Tony Award for Best Play; *The Glass Menagerie* and

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was Tennessee Williams' first successful drama, and a staple of nearly every dramatic-studies course on the planet (it was recently adapted into an Indian film in the regional language of Malayalam); and

Othello

is a William Shakespeare tragedy. One of his best. 'Nuff said.



Even if I weren't a theatre reviewer, as a theatre *fan* I would likely make time for all three productions, and here's a note for younger audiences who might be thinking, "Sure, these plays are classics, but they're, like, so out *dated*"

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now ... " - one features a young woman torn between her love for two brothers, one features a passionate relationship undone by a best friend's lies, and one features a young man away from his needling mother and stifling home life. So, you know, these shows just

might

have a little

modern-day relevance for you.

For information on these and future shows, visit St. Ambrose at (<http://web.sau.edu/theatre>),
the Green Room at (

<http://www.thegreenroomtheatre.com>

), and the Prenzie Players at (

<http://www.prenzieplayers.com>

).

Pen in Hand II Workshop

Midwest Writing Center

Saturday, October 13



Recently, I chatted with the Midwest Writing Center's Rochelle Murray, who told me about the venue's Pen in Hand II writing workshops on Saturday, October 13. And Murray wanted me to tell *you* that anyone who attends them and mentions this article will still receive the now-expired early-bird discount, good for 20 percent off the \$25-workshop, \$75-whole-day pricing. So not only are you getting the *Reader* for free, kids, but we're even *saving* you a few bucks. You're welcome.

Pen in Hand II is composed of four writers' workshops - plus a free mini-course for middle-schoolers titled "How to Write a Great Story" - taught by a quartet of published professionals: Shea Doyle leads "The Play's the Thing," on the technical aspects of playwriting; Jill Esbaum (pictured) teaches the basics of children's-lit writing in "From Idea to Bookshelf";

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Felicia Schneiderhan offers insight into fiction and creative nonfiction with "Scene Fundamentals"; and according to a press release, Jane VanVooren Rogers' "Find the Right Formula: Tips for Effective Business Writing" will provide "tips and techniques for crafting professional, easy-to-read communications."

For the record, our staff's e-mails to one another are composed just *like* that. Well ... one out of two, at least

For more information on Pen in Hand II, visit (<http://www.midwestwritingcenter.org>)

T.I.

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Sunday, October 14, 7:30 p.m.

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