

# RICHARD DRESSER

## BIO

### PLAYS

Over the past twenty years, RICHARD DRESSER'S plays have been widely produced on and off Broadway, in the nation's leading regional theaters, and extensively throughout Europe.

He recently completed a trilogy of plays about happiness in America, with each play set in a different social class: AUGUSTA (working class), THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (middle class) and A VIEW OF THE HARBOR (upper class). These plays are just published and being produced in regional theatres and in Europe.

His seventeen published plays include ROUNDING THIRD, which deals with competition in American society through the prism of Little League baseball. After premiering at the Northlight Theater in Chicago, it ran off-Broadway and has since had over one hundred productions throughout the country.

Also, BELOW THE BELT, about three American men attempting to work together in a foreign land, started at the Actors Theatre of Louisville's Humana Festival, ran off-Broadway at the John Houseman Theatre, appeared throughout the country, and was a long-running hit in Berlin, triggering many European productions. It was subsequently made into a film HUMAN ERROR which appeared at the Sundance Film Festival.

### OTHER PLAYS INCLUDE:

SOMETHING IN THE AIR, a contemporary film noir about the very last sure-fire investment left on earth, which started at CATF...

GUN-SHY, which started at Louisville's Humana Festival and ran at Playwrights Horizons in New York, about the tumultuous end and subsequent beginning of a marriage...

THE DOWNSIDE, which started at the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven about a desperate pharmaceutical company betting everything on a new anti-stress drug,...

ALONE AT THE BEACH, which started at Actors Theatre of Louisville, about prickly single people attempting to share a summer house without killing each other...

WONDERFUL WORLD, which also started in Louisville, about a family torn apart by a demonic in-laws...

He wrote the Beach Boys musical GOOD VIBRATIONS which started at New York Stage & Film and later ran on Broadway plus many short plays, including WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF? which is staged in a car with three audience members in the back seat and is frequently sold out.

He has worked in television for many years on a number of series including HBO's "Vietnam War Stories" for which he won a cable ACE award, "The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd" starring Blair Brown, "The Job" starring Denis Leary, "The Education of Max Bickford" starring Richard Dreyfuss, "Madigan Men" starring Gabriel Byrne, and such cult favorites as "Bakersfield P.D.," and "Keen Eddie."



## **CURRENT PROJECTS**

A new play, *THE LAST DAYS OF MICKEY & JEAN*, opens in March at Merrimack Repertory Theater in Lowell, Massachusetts. It deals with a notorious Boston gangster in early retirement with his younger girlfriend.

He wrote the book for a new musical, *JOHNNY BASEBALL*, which starts previews in May at the American Repertory Theater in Cambridge, Massachusetts, directed by Diane Paulus. It's about the curse on the Boston Red Sox.

He also created and writes a short series, *LIFE COACH*, starring Cheri Oteri of Saturday Night Live. It runs on AMC and on the web.

## **EDUCATION**

He graduated from Brown University and later earned a Masters Degree in Communications from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he wrote his first play, *NOVELTIES*, which won the Harold Crain Award.

He currently teaches Television Writing at Rutgers University.

He also leads writing workshops throughout the country (Seven Devils in Idaho, Playwrights of the Western Region in Denver, The Last Frontier Theatre Festival in Valdez, Alaska)

## **ORGANIZATIONS**

He is a member of the Writers Guild East Foundation, which involves mentoring various groups, including veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan

He is a former member of New Dramatists (a playwrights organization in New York), and the Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference.