



PICT

PITTSBURGH IRISH & CLASSICAL THEATRE  
Professional Theater in Residence at the University of Pittsburgh

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## **Local playwright featured by PITT and PICT**

*New Classics presents free reading of Au Naturale by Sloan MacRae*

**Pittsburgh, PA -- March 17, 2010.** The New Classics series concludes on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. with Sloan MacRae's play *Au Naturale*, directed by Tommy Costello. New Classics is a cooperative program presented by the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Theatre Arts and Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre.

The reading is free and open to the public, and will be followed by a talk-back with the cast and audience moderated by Costello and Melissa Hill Grande, Marketing Director and Artistic Associate for PICT.

Actors Ben Blazer, Andrea Lattanzio, Martel Manning and Laurel Schroeder will be featured in the reading.

*Au Naturale* centers on two Manhattanite corporate types who hit the Appalachian Trail in search of a disgraced colleague, the one person who can save their company from

disaster. Fending off bears, storms, and Mother Nature herself, they learn that the lies and feints of boardroom politics are absolutely useless on a mountain.

Sloan MacRae's plays have been performed in New York, Washington D.C., Berlin, Toronto, Pittsburgh, and at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. His play *Code Blue*, co-written with Adam Seybold, was featured at the 2009 Toronto Fringe Festival. Other plays include: *Pennsylvucky*, world premiere at Epiphany Theatre Company in NYC; *No Exodus*, commissioned by Epiphany Theatre Company and world premiere at ETC; and *Obscene Jesters*, world premiere at HERE Arts Center in NYC by The Immediate Theatre Company and performed at Columbia University by Arts Uptown and ETC.

Sloan's Pittsburgh credits include short plays written for Bricolage's Midnight Radio series, the Pittsburgh Pride Festival, and Future Ten and readings of *Davy Crockett Hates America* by Phase3 productions, and *Pennsylvucky* at Pittsburgh Playwrights. He holds an MFA in Dramatic Writing from Carnegie Mellon's School of Drama and is the Director of Marketing and Communications at City Theatre.

Tommy Costello's work as a director and scenographer has colored the stages of New York, Dublin, Prague and of course Pittsburgh, where in 2008 he directed the Pittsburgh premiere of Sarah Ruhl's *The Clean House* as a part of Pitt Rep's mainstage season. Always fervent about innovative new work, Tommy recently workshopped a new translation of Sergei Tretiakov's revolutionary melodrama, *Gas Masks*, for Pitt, and has been a part of Pittsburgh's Redeye Theatre Project, creating immediate new plays for the past four years. His degrees include a M.Phil. in Irish Theatre & Film from Trinity

College, Dublin, and when he's not in production he can often be found lecturing on, writing about, or researching modern Irish theatre. He is currently a teaching fellow for the University of Pittsburgh Department of Theatre Arts where he teaches Acting, Directing, Theatre Criticism and Theatre History courses.

Persons who are unable to attend the reading in person will be able to view it online via LIPLO™ (Live and in Person, Live and Online), a new internet technology pioneered by PICT Operations Director Stephanie Riso and Alex Geis. Geis of 21 Productions and videographer Randy Griffith of RLG Creations will live-broadcast the readings, and viewers will be able to respond via live chat as they watch the performances on the LIPLO™ website, [www.liplo.com](http://www.liplo.com).

For more information about “New Classics,” contact Melissa Grande at 412.561.6000 x203 or [mgrande@picttheatre.org](mailto:mgrande@picttheatre.org).

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**The University of Pittsburgh's Department of Theatre Arts** (founded in 1982) offers the BA, MA, MFA and PhD degrees in Theatre Arts. All faculty members are active in both teaching and artistic / research activities. The department shares a philosophy of theatre education, the chief feature of which is the firm conviction that theory and practice, academic and creative work, and educational and professional theatre must be integrated for a successful program of theatre education. The University of Pittsburgh Repertory Theatre is the department's flagship theatre company with performance spaces in the landmark Stephen Foster Memorial and the Cathedral of Learning. [www.play.pitt.edu](http://www.play.pitt.edu).

**Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre** was founded in 1996 to diversify the region's theatrical offerings by providing Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania audiences with high-quality, text-driven, affordable productions of classical theatre and the works of classical and contemporary Irish playwrights and to significantly improve employment opportunities for local talent in all facets of theatrical presentation and production. PICT is a Small Professional Theatre (SPT) affiliated with Actors' Equity Association, and a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG) and the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council. PICT is the Professional Theatre in Residence at the University of Pittsburgh and PICT productions at the Charity Randall and Henry Heymann Theatres are presented in cooperation with the University of Pittsburgh – Department of Theatre Arts. [www.picttheatre.org](http://www.picttheatre.org)