**Oscar-Winning Author of ON GOLDEN POND on Stage as Charlie the Mailman**

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***After 33 years the Academy Award-Winning Author Ernest Thompson Finally Plays a Role in His Own Classic American Play***

Some of the most famous actors in the world including Katharine Hepburn, Henry Fonda, Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer have spoken Ernest Thompson's lines from ON GOLDEN POND.  Now it's Ernest's turn.  This summer, for the first time, Ernest will appear in his own play as Charlie the Mailman with his own hand-picked cast in the summer 2012 return of the only production he has ever directed.

Thompson, with jeans a bit low on the bummy and a real regional accent, storms the stage as Charlie.  Producer Lori Gigliotti Murphy believes "Thompson knew the real Charlie as a kid and to the best of my knowledge no-one has ever played him this way.  He's a scream, yet he still underpins the story in ways that perhaps no other actor ever could."

Thompson says "Having seen ON GOLDEN POND from every imaginable angle, as playwright, screenwriter, librettist and lyricist, and as director of the musical, the TV special, and now, for the first time ever, the original play on stage, seeing it from the inside is a revelation.  We've all known a Charlie in our lives, the overeager, overgrown kid, overly big sometimes, overly loud, trying overly hard, but lovable, too, for his oversized heart. That's the mailman I've always wanted the play to have and it's gratifying to see the effect it has on my fellow actors and on the audience."

Produced by Whitebridge Farm Productions, this ON GOLDEN POND also takes place in a new location selected by Thompson for summer 2012; Pitman's Freight Room in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire where the film was made.  According to producer Morgan Murphy, "Pitman's is a freight room-turned-antique store that we turned into a theater.  It feels like a post and beam summer cottage and is filled with antiques from all of our pasts.  It brings you back to your own family roots."

Whitebridge Farm Productions, a film and theatre production company in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire, was developed by Thompson with partners Morgan Murphy and Lori Gigliotti Murphy.  Whitebridge produces socially conscious independent film and theatre projects, offers performing arts-related educational programs and workshops, and embraces theatre and filmmaking in the New Hampshire community while speaking to a worldwide audience.

This landmark event also features a premiere recording from musical legend Carly Simon, *THE FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE*, created by Carly (Simon), Thompson and Joe Deleault.  Another

new song entitled, *ON GOLDEN POND*, created by Thompson, Deleault and world renowned fiddler, Natalie MacMaster (who also plays on *THE FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE* recording,) premieres in this production and features the voice of teenager, Emily Flack.

Other members of the professional cast selected by Thompson include newcomers Jordan Puzzo from Derry, NH as Billy and Patte Sarausky from Laconia, NH as the Telephone Operator, a new role created this year by Thompson.  Returning to the stage this summer are Morgan Murphy as Bill Ray, the dentist and Lori Gigliotti Murphy as Chelsea.  Also returning are Frank T. Wells and Vinette Cotter as Norman and Ethel, whose unique chemistry and history as a couple in reality shines on stage in these famous roles.

Thompson can be seen as Charlie the Mailman in the only production he has ever directed at Pitman's Freight Room located at 94 New Salem Street in Laconia, New Hampshire now through August 12th.