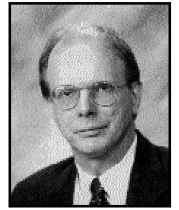


Playwright Interview: **DAVID O. BELL**



1. How did you get the idea for *Buck Meets the Devil: Circa 1980* and how long did it take you to write it?

I had written two other ten minute plays and wanted to do another but couldn't think of anything for over a year. Then while I was on the road and daydreaming, it just popped into my head. I spent about a week writing it then revised it probably a dozen times over the next few months.

2. Would you mind your mother or small children seeing it?

My mother would think it is funny, but children are going to find it dull I imagine.

3. Has anyone been offended by anything you've written?

As far as I know, nothing I've written has offended



anyone. This is probably due to the fact that so little I've written was ever published. I did make a video that offend-

ed a friend. He had gotten a job that required an FBI background check. We thought it would be funny to do a spoof of that, but he wasn't amused, and I don't think any of his ex-girlfriends were either. Lewis Nobles, the former Mississippi College president, would certainly have been offended, but I think he was in prison at the time.

4. How did you get interested in playwriting? I had been trying to write a play for years but could get only about ten pages so

the ten minute concept was perfect for my attention span.

Playwright Interview: **TOR VALENZA**



1. How did you come up with *Your Money or My Life*?

I remember wanting to write something simple with two characters. Suddenly, a guy sitting on a park bench at night came into my mind. Then I saw a guy walking by him and wondering what he was doing there on a park bench so late at night. And then it just started to write itself.

2. How long did it take you to write this play? How many revisions?

I guess I was pretty inspired, and usually when that happens, the script develops very quickly. I probably finished the first draft in about an hour or two. It's unusual, but there haven't been many revisions. I felt I had a solid beginning, middle and end and two funny characters with a conflict, so the rest came down to dialogue revisions.

3. Would you want your mother (or small children) to see the play?

My mother is the kind of mom who would watch paint dry if I painted it. That said, even if she weren't my mother, I think she'd enjoy this one. As for small children, I don't have any, but I have small dogs, and I don't think the play has any subject that I don't let them watch on television. That said, the play does have jokes about guns and taxes, subjects my dogs won't understand, but probably won't set their emotional development back either, but you never know; small dogs are sensitive.

4. Have you ever written a piece that made someone mad — or offended someone?



Not that I know of. Personally, I believe in the "sticks and stones will break my bones, but ten minute plays will never harm me" philosophy. That said, it's never my intention to offend anyone. To be honest, it's my intention to please everyone so much that they can't stop from giving me overwhelming applause and appreciation. But you can't please everyone, so I guess I'll apologize here if I have or will offend any muggers, actors or Parks & Recreation people who might see this play. Forgive me.

5. What other creative projects are you working on?

Currently, I'm involved with a local memoir/essay group called the Oxford Essayists, where I write about life, love, and puppy dogs, but never about cats or hamsters. At least, not yet.

6. How did you get into playwriting?

Well, with all modesty, I used to write film and t.v. scripts for big studios in L.A. But most of those projects sat on some studio executive's shelf, and I got pretty frustrated. Then, one day, I moved to my wife's home town, and this dude, Neil White, was telling me about this ten minute play festival. So I wrote one, and he actually wanted to produce it! Just like Hollywood, I didn't get a private trailer, but having actors say my lines and people seeing and enjoying my script was worth at least two private trailers. That was about four festivals ago, and I've been writing them ever since.