

Bio

Ernest Thompson, whose novel *Out Clause*—release date May 5, 2026 (Global Collective Publishers)—is now available to pre-order, has won an Oscar, two Golden Globes, a Writers Guild Award and a Broadway Drama Guild Award for Best Play. A recent inductee into the New Hampshire Literary Hall of Fame, Ernest's work has been nominated for a Tony, an Emmy and a British Academy Award.

His more than 35 plays have been seen in theatres around the world. The most enduring, *On Golden Pond*, has been translated into 30 languages, Arabic the newest, and played in more than 40 countries on six continents including three runs on Broadway, the most recent starring James Earl Jones and Leslie Uggams.

This coming season, *On Golden Pond* will be back on Broadway, this time directed by and starring the author, a trifecta he accomplishes with his newest work, the one-man play *Archie Parish's Parting Words*, currently on a sporadic tour throughout the Northeast, with plans to present it on nights off in New York.

His short film, *The Constituent*, which Ernest adapted from his one-act play by the same name and directed, costarring with Emmy winner Gordon Clapp, is on the festival circuit.

Ernest's debut novel, *The Book of Maps*, can be purchased anywhere books are sold and is available in hardcover, paperback and as an e-book and audiobook with Ernest narrating.

Among other plays are *The West Side Waltz* (starring Katharine Hepburn and Dorothy Loudon), *A Sense of Humor* (Jack Lemmon and Estelle Parsons), *Ax of Love*, *Amazons in August*, *Murdering Mother*, *White People Christmas*, *The Elixir*, and *Human Beings*. His anthology of 25 short plays will contain the collections *Political Suicide*, *The Penis Responds*, *Answers*, and *Valentines for Two*, as well as *The One About the Guy in the Bar*, *The Kindness of Strangers*, and *American Terrorist*.

His films include *On Golden Pond* (Katharine Hepburn, Henry Fonda and Jane Fonda), *Sweet Hearts Dance* (Susan Sarandon and Jeff Daniels), *The Lies Boys Tell* (Kirk Douglas), *1969* (Robert Downey Jr. and Bruce Dern), *The West Side Waltz* (Shirley MacLaine and Liza Minnelli), *Out of Time*, and the live *On Golden Pond* (Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer), the last four of which Ernest also directed, as he has his independent films, *Time and Charges* and *Heavenly Angle*. Both were produced by his company Whitebridge Farm Productions and offered as On Location Training to anyone of any background, experience or age interested in any aspect of filmmaking.

In the theatre, Ernest has directed the world premieres of *The Elixir*, *The Penis Responds*, *Ax of Love*, *Another Summer* (the *On Golden Pond* musical), and, in partnership with Rock the Vote, his darkly funny collection *Political Suicide*, which opened on Primary Night in New Hampshire, followed by productions across the country.

Ernest began his acting career touring with Cyril Ritchard and Maureen O'Sullivan in *The Pleasure of his Company*. He has appeared on Broadway in *Summer Brave* (opposite Alexis Smith) and *Off-Off* in *The Penis Responds* (with Richard Gilliland), *The Valentine Fairy* and *Zipless* (both with Julie Hagerty). At the Ahmanson Theatre in LA, Ernest performed with Jean Stapleton and Charlotte Rae in *The Time of the Cuckoo* and has starred in other plays of his own, including *The Elixir*, *Political Suicide*, and *On Golden Pond* (at Pittman's Freight Room, as Charlie the Mailman).

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In the '70s, Ernest had a long run on the soap opera *Somerset* and starred in two television series, *Sierra* and *Westside Medical*, and in two TV films across from Susan Sarandon, *The Rimers of Eldritch* and *F. Scott Fitzgerald and The Last of the Belles*.

He acted in the feature films *Star 80* (directed by Bob Fosse) and *Next Stop Wonderland* and in two TV films Ernest wrote, *The Lies Boys Tell* and *The West Side Waltz*, and starred in his independent films *Time and Charges* and *Heavenly Angle*.

From his home base, a 200-year-old farm in rural New Hampshire, Ernest has worked with hundreds of writers, hosting his internationally-renowned Write On Golden Pond workshops and through Rescind Recidivism, the prison writing program he established with his writer wife Kerrin Thompson, giving inmates a chance to feel creative as well as human, capable and worthy. Ernest also has had the privilege of providing one-on-one script and manuscript analysis and private coaching to actors and public speakers.

A prolific songwriter, Ernest has worked with legendary composers and singers, producing songs he's used in his films and plays. With longtime collaborator Joe Deleault, Ernest created "The Father Daughter Dance," written with and performed by Carly Simon, and the anthemic "On Golden Pond," composed with and featuring the award-winning Cape Breton fiddler Natalie MacMaster, vocals by Emily Flack.

Ernest has directed videos for his songs "Brönte Brook," written with and performed by the remarkably talented Ray Porcell, and "You Are Loved," with the extraordinary Justin Jaymes. And his list of amazing collaborators has recently expanded to include the great blues singer/songwriter Bruce Marshall and another exquisite Maine man, Griffin William Sherry, co-founder of The Ghost of Paul Revere. Ernest's music is available wherever you get music.

A music video of Ernest's song "Live Free or Die," written with local celebrity Art Harriman and sung by the beloved star John Davidson, features majestic scenery from the Seacoast to the mountains to the Lakes Region of New Hampshire and opens every one of John's shows at his wildly successful Club Sandwich. For a few seasons, John closed each show with a song he wrote with Ernest, "Keep the Party Going," and now kills it with Ernest's "Christmas Is A State Of Mind" in his holiday show.

Post-pandemic has seen hundreds of productions of *On Golden Pond* in the US and abroad and a resounding reception for Ernest's revised script of *The West Side Waltz* at the Will Geer Theatrum Botanicum in Topanga Canyon, California.

In 2021, Ernest was directing himself in his play *Ask/Answer* when Omicron came calling. He looks forward to returning to it and to casting the Broadway production of his play *Some Parts Missing*.

In 2019, Ernest directed and starred as Norman Thayer, Jr. in his sold-out, deconstructed production of *On Golden Pond* at the charming Winnepesaukee Playhouse in Meredith, NH, close to where his iconic movie was shot.

He'll soon direct his long-awaited film sequel, *Home On Golden Pond*, and his timely, provocative and hilarious indy, *Parallel America*, in which he'll again costar with New Hampshire's Emmy-winning Gordon Clapp.

Learn more at www.ErnestThompson.us.