



Malacandra Productions  
presents

an evening to benefit production  
of the documentary film

# William Tenn: a Writer's Life

the story of a legendary American social satirist  
and icon of science fiction's golden age

performances will include:

a live reading by  
Pittsburgh's own  
**William Tenn**

a reading of  
Tenn's short masterwork  
"Bernie the Faust"  
by members of  
**The Parallax Second Players**

January 28th, 2005

reception: 7:30 PM  
'meet William Tenn (Phil Klass)  
refreshments will be served

performance and reading: 8:00 PM

937 Liberty Avenue, downtown Pittsburgh  
admission: \$15

reservations: (412)281-8723 Ext. 24

Malacandra Productions presents  
"William Tenn: a Writer's Life" written and directed by David Brody  
produced by David Brody, Laurie D. T. Mann and John Regis

## About William Tenn: a Writer's Life

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*William Tenn: A Writer's Life* will be a permanent video record of the life of one of the central figures of science fiction's "Golden Age". With the recent publication of three volumes of his collected fiction and non-fiction, Tenn's genius has been rediscovered and the 85 year-old retired college professor, whose real name is Phil Klass, has begun to receive the attention he deserves.

Considered science fiction's greatest social satirist, Tenn influenced the likes of Robert Silverberg, Daniel Keyes and Robert Sheckley, among many others. His stories were published in the leading fiction magazines of the 40's, 50's and 60's and have been reprinted extensively. Barry N. Malzberg said of William Tenn that he is "regarded with perhaps Theodore Sturgeon as the finest craftsmen of his generation."

Tenn's extraordinary life story has a narrative symmetry that lends itself to the video art form. Using interviews, photographs, stock footage and other representative material, *William Tenn: a Writer's Life* will investigate the link between Klass' leftist early life, his time in the military, his choice of science fiction as a

creative outlet, and the effect of his academic career on his own writing as well as that of his students. Tenn's own voice, with its unique and evocative delivery, will be used as the narration.

The script will interpret the events of Tenn's life as a version of the immigrant American dream and will divide his story into four distinct but overlapping phases; each reminiscent of one of Shakespeare's "ages of life". It will chronicle these ages as the lives of a young radical, soldier, writer and then teacher.

Written and directed by New York City theater director and producer David Brody, *William Tenn: a Writer's Life* is being made with Phil Klass' full cooperation. Sharing duties as producers are Laurie D. T. Mann, the editor of Tenn's collection of nonfiction, and playwright John Regis. Regis is currently developing a stage adaptation of Tenn's novella *Winthrop was Stubborn* for presentation as part of the 2006 Three Rivers Arts Festival.

*William Tenn: a Writer's Life* is scheduled for a Summer 2007 release.

For more information, call David Brody at (412)951-9101 or send e-mail to [dbrody@mind-spring.com](mailto:dbrody@mind-spring.com).