

Storyteller brings children together

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out. They stand straight. They are an authority."

Usually, Hutchinson's storytelling projects are presented in weeklong seminar-style sessions.

"The first couple of days, I just tell stories, and the kids sit there with their mouths hanging open," Hutchinson said.

As the week moves forward, Hutchinson often has children ask questions of their grandparents.

The activity is helpful to both child and grandparent, he said. The questions are ones that rarely get asked - Did they ever step on a nail? Did they ever get spooked at night? - but they offer a glimpse into the early lives of the elders that some children never bother to discover.

"I've seen tears flowing from grandparents who never knew their grandchild would become that interested in their life," Hutchinson said.

When Hutchinson was a youngster himself, years ago in Kentucky as a teen-ager, he met a storyteller who told him that one day, he would be a storyteller, too, said Hutchinson's wife, Marilyn, an assistant attorney general with the State Department of Justice.

"(The storyteller) recognized that in him, I guess," Marilyn said. "He loves doing it ... it's invigorating for him to do it."

His experience meeting the story-

teller had been previously enforced when Orson Welles' "War of the Worlds" was broadcast when Duane was 9 years old.

"I was scared to hear these big spider-like creatures were coming out of things that had burrowed into the ground from Mars.

"My father walked out and looked above the lilac bushes and said, 'Well, they landed in New Jersey; it'll take them a good three days to get here.'"

Hutchinson still isn't sure if his father was serious when he said that, but after Duane realized that "War of the Worlds" was a farce, something was triggered inside him.

"I wanted to be able to have (that same) sort of power that came from literature," he said.

Along with his job of storytelling, Hutchinson has realized his ability by publishing several biographies and short story collections.

His most recent book was published in March - "Doctors Are People Too: Conversations with Three Doctors" - and it demonstrates Hutchinson's tendency to write about what he knows. He has no interest in writing about someone he doesn't like, and he turned down an opportunity to write about a famed criminal.

"I just could not bear to be thinking day and night about somebody like that," Hutchinson said. "I really like to like the person I'm doing."

"Doctors" tells the story of three

physicians. One is a family doctor whom Hutchinson has come into contact with during his life. He explores the motivations these men felt in devoting their lives to medicine.

In addition to "Doctors," Hutchinson has published 12 other books, three of them ghost story anthologies. And in Hutchinson's story repertoire, even his house holds a place.

In the 1950s, his house was located on UNL's city campus, across from Morrill Hall. But when the university decided to build a parking lot on that space in 1955, Hutchinson's future house and a whole row of other houses were moved to other parts of the city, Hutchinson's ending up at about 30th and Holdrege streets.

The Hutchinsons now live near the Ag Men Fraternity, Alpha Gamma Nu. And in an open-hearted spirit, the couple shares their home, cookies, punch and a Halloween ghost story in October with the fraternity members, who in turn have the Hutchinsons over for dinner every so often.

The house is often frequented with grandchildren, and inside pieces of furniture that have been passed down from relatives hold stories of their own, and books populate almost every room.

But as he has made clear, his love of stories doesn't stop at the bookshelf.

"When I sit with half-circles of kids who are just openmouthed and looking at me - that's thrilling."

Omaha theater features exclusively original plays

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viewing them from the outside.

It is because the theater is so intimate that it is easier for the actors to incorporate the audience into some of the plays. In some cases, the audience acts as a basis for their productions.

"One of our upcoming productions is an interactive show," Nguyen said.

"Only the first half hour is scripted. After that the audience comes up with ideas for what the actors must do. The rest of the show is then improvised around those ideas."

Many of the shows are based on the community and its people. Nguyen said most of the theater's productions take on certain issues that reflect on the attitudes of current generations.

The theater's previous production, "Neon," focused on a group of 20-somethings who are facing their upcoming high school reunion. It explores their ideals of success and their fight with reality.

In April, two one-act plays will feature an exploration of relationships between a rabbi and a woman who is dying of cancer and a Latino war hero and his son as they take a trip to Washington, D.C.

The theater holds open auditions for all of its productions and is continually looking for one-act and full-length play scripts that it can produce during the season.

Tickets for shows are \$8 and shows start promptly at 8:00 p.m. Student discounts are available for all Sunday shows with a valid student ID.

AP, Times, Journal take Pulitzer victories

NEW YORK (AP) — Journalists whose work shed light on financial crises in Asia and Russia, President Clinton's impeachment and voter fraud in Miami were among the winners of the 1999 Pulitzer Prizes.

Also receiving the prestigious honor Monday were authors of books on Earth's geology, New York City history and aviator Charles Lindbergh.

The Associated Press swept both photo categories — something no other news organization has done — for the second time. Other double winners were The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal.

In all, the Monica Lewinsky scandal inspired three prize-winning entries.

In Portland, Ore., staffers of The Oregonian washed down McDonald's french fries with champagne to celebrate an award for explanatory reporting. Richard Read's series followed a load of frozen fries from their origin in a field in the Northwest to a McDonald's in Indonesia, chronicling along the way the causes and effects of Asia's economic woes.

The Times staff, notably Jeff Gerth, won the national reporting prize for a series on the sale of U.S. technology to China despite security risks. And Washington-based columnist Maureen Dowd won commentary for her acerbic work on the Clinton-Lewinsky affair.

"I'm just so grateful to President Clinton that he never spoke the words, 'Young lady, pull down that jacket and get back to the typing pool,'" quipped Dowd, who once wrote of Clinton's behavior, "these are not grounds for impeachment. These are grounds for divorce."

The Journal staff won for international reporting, for "in-depth, analytical coverage" of Russia's financial crisis.

Detroit-based Journal staffer Angelo Henderson won the Pulitzer for feature writing for a piece about a drug-gist driven to violence by repeated holdups.

"It happened so quickly, he was just trying to protect himself and his co-worker," Henderson said. "It was nothing about malice or hatred, but afterward realizing what you've done is tough. ... I tried to tell the story of how these two lives collided, and how their lives both changed."

The AP won spot news photography with a portfolio of pictures on the embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, and the feature photography prize for a "striking collection" of pictures of key figures and events in President Clinton's affair with Lewinsky and the impeachment crisis.

"Our photo team made AP and Pulitzer history today. We couldn't be happier or more proud," said Louis D.

Boccardi, AP president and chief executive officer.

The public service prize went to The Washington Post for a series on reckless gunplay by poorly trained police that showed that officers in the nation's capital had shot and killed more people per capita in the 1990s than any other large American police force.

The Hartford Courant won the breaking news category for staff coverage of the murder of four state lottery officials by a disturbed worker who then committed suicide.

The Miami Herald won for investigative reporting for exposing voter fraud in a mayoral election that was later overturned.

Duke Ellington, who would have turned 100 this year, received a special posthumous citation for his "musical genius, which evoked aesthetically the principles of democracy through the medium of jazz."

For "Lindbergh," winner of the biography prize, author A. Scott Berg gained access to some 2,000 boxes of personal papers and had unprecedented access to the controversial aviation pioneer's family and friends, according to publishers' notes.

"This is the most exciting day since Anne Morrow gave me permission to write the book," Berg, 49, said in Los Angeles. The author of two other biographies said he spent a year trying to persuade Lindbergh's widow to agree to the project, and nine years writing it.

Writer John McPhee said he was "100 percent surprised" by the award.

"I thought my brother was fooling around," he said. "Turns out there are a lot more people who are interested in geology than people who aren't can imagine."

New York professors Edwin G. Burrows and Mike Wallace won the history prize for their collaboration, "Gotham: A History of New York City to 1898."

Michael Cunningham's book, "The Hours," won the Pulitzer for fiction; "Wit," Margaret Edson's play about a cancer patient won the drama prize; Mark Strand won for poetry with "Blizzard of One," and Melinda Wagner won the music award for her composition, "Concerto for Flute, Strings and Percussion."

The Pulitzers, the most prestigious awards given for journalism, are presented annually by Columbia University. The awards carry a prize of \$5,000, except for public service. The organization that wins in that category gets a gold medal.

Including the 1999 awards, the AP has won a total of 45 Pulitzers, including 27 for photos. The New York Times has won 79, The Washington Post 32, and the Los Angeles Times 24.

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