



hard for me, usually, to find comedies worthy of inclusion in my new playwrights book. Not this year! The Butcher of Baraboo, Election Day, and Spain are comedies. The first two plays were produced by Second Stage as part of their summer series. The Butcher of Baraboo is about a small-town woman whose husband has disappeared under mysterious circumstances, and the town gossips suspect that she done it. Election Day is about a local mayoral election and examines with amusing dexterity why we vote the way we do. Spain was produced Off Broadway by MCC at the Lucille Lortel Theatre. It's about a young woman who believes that there's a sixteenth-century Spanish conquistador in her living room. Harvest is a touching drama about a farmer who refuses to give up his farm, even as he is going under. He manages to hold onto his farm but not his wife, who didn't bargain for a life of poverty and struggle. Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom is a drama about a group of teenagers in a suburban neighborhood obsessed with an online video game set in their community, who come to believe that they are being invaded by aliens from outer space—who look suspiciously like their parents. It was produced to acclaim by Actors Theatre of Louisville at their 2008 Humana Festival and subsequently at the 2008 Summer Play Festival in New York. 100 Saints You Should Know comes to us from Playwrights Horizons and is about a single mom looking for something to believe in and a Catholic priest who has decided to leave the church as he has lost his faith. Unconditional was produced by LAByrinth Theater Company at The Public Theater. Of its three disparate stories, the central one is about a human resources worker who becomes enraged when he is laid off after many years on the job and just a short while from retirement and the pension he was counting on. All these plays represent the best of American playwriting. I hope you like them as much as I do, but more important, I hope you produce them! -Lawrence Harbison Brooklyn, New York

3m, 2f / Dark Comedy / Unit Set In a suburban subdivision with identical houses, parents find their teenagers addicted to an online horror video game. The game setting? A subdivision with identical houses. The goal? Smash through an army of zombies to escape the neighborhood for good. But as the line blurs between virtual and reality, both parents and players realize that fear has a life of its own. "Playing like a nifty episode of 'The Twilight Zone', the story builds to an affectingly gruesome finale...with its small-scale tech demands and four-person ensemble, Neighborhood seems a likely candidate for legit troupes hoping to benefit from the play's youthful, tech-savvy appeal." -Variety Magazine "When our player pounds on the video door, and we hear the bang on his own front door, it's genuinely, brilliantly chilling." - Denver Post "Haley's suspenseful play beamed cautionary messages about inattentive parents of teenagers addicted to online video games. A sense of unease about the diminishing line between real life and virtual reality lingered for days after the suburban zombies in Neighborhood 3 were vanquished with weed whackers and hedge clippers." - Louisville Courier-Journal

Far from the glittering lights of Broadway, in a city known more for its horse racing than its artistic endeavors, an annual festival in Louisville, Kentucky, has transformed the landscape of the American theater. The Actors Theatre of Louisville—the Tony Award-winning state theater of Kentucky—in 1976 successfully created what became the nation's most respected new-play festival, the Humana Festival of New American Plays. The Humana Festival: The History of New Plays at Actors Theatre of



