

THOMAS WOLFE:

HOME AGAIN

a play in two acts



William Gregg

and

Perry Deane Young

“A fascinating show... The revelations are riveting.”

—Asheville Citizen-Times

Thomas Wolfe: Home Again

A Play in Two Acts

By William Gregg and Perry Deane Young

When Thomas Wolfe's first novel, *Look Homeward, Angel*, was published to rave reviews in October of 1929, he was universally hailed as a major literary figure. Everywhere, that is, except in his own hometown. Wolfe's thinly disguised fiction had portrayed his family and other townspeople in brutally raw detail. One woman said they should drag his ugly carcass across the town square and tar and feather him. His beloved school teacher said, "You have devastated your own family, but you have crucified mine." This play examines the passionate drama in Wolfe's own life as he dealt with his editors and agents, his lover Aline Bernstein, and his mother and brothers and sisters. By the time Wolfe finally returned to his family in Asheville, N.C., he was hailed as a literary lion, a local hero. Instead of being reviled, the author of *You Can't Go Home Again* found himself smothered with praise. He had come home seeking a quiet place to work, but soon had to flee back "home" to New York. Less than a year later, the young author's life was cut short as the result of a brain tumor. He came home again one final time and was laid to rest in the town cemetery beside the real-life characters in his novels. A friend said, "Maybe now they will let him rest in peace." The premiere production of *Thomas Wolfe: Home Again* was July 29, 2009 at the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre at Mars Hill University.

“Dramatic power is intense as the playwrights share little-known and mostly factual episodes in Wolfe's later life, the result of scholarly research.”

— Jim Cavener, *Asheville Citizen-Times*

“Tom Wolfe continues to fascinate us—for his prodigious writing, for the work he would have done if he'd been granted a longer life and in my case, for his relationship with Aline Bernstein, my grandmother. *Home Again* is a play as ambitious as Tom himself, giving us a rich and full picture of his life. The play offers a generous, nuanced portrayal of Aline. Their love never died, it changed. It is a sympathetic view of their relationship, a fascinating play.”

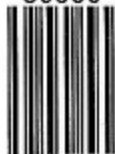
— Edla Cusick, author of the plays, *Midnight Lunch* and *Austin*

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