



THEATER AT PASSAIC COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Playwright-in-Residence
Fall 2010**

CHRISTOPHER BUDINICH

**Thursday, November 11
Play-in-Progress Reading**

Cedar Bridge

A Musical Inspired by a True Story

**Presented by:
Acting I, Acting II, and Theater Option Students**

Paterson Campus PCCC Theater

7:30 PM

Admission Free

About Christopher Budinich

A New Jersey playwright, Christopher Budinich, is a theater graduate of William Paterson University (WPU) where a number of his plays received staged readings and full production. His first work at WPU, *Whenever A Feather Falls...* was named “*Best Original Production*” in a campus-wide student awards ceremony.

Recently, Budinich’s play *American Gator*, placed among the top three in third annual NJ Playwright’s Contest. The drama received a staged reading directed by Mark Tambone, an English professor at PCCC.

Rocket Boys, The Musical,” was a winner of the NY ASCAP/DISNEY Musical Theatre Workshop, directed by Tony-nominated composer, and Broadway veteran, Craig Carnelia. Budinich conceived, wrote, and adapted this work from the memoirs of Homer H. Hickam, Jr., (from the book of the same name) to the musical stage. Music and lyrics were written by Diana Belkowski and Dan Tramon. “*Rocket Boys, The Musical*” held its

“premiere” in Huntsville, Alabama in May 2008 at the Merrimack Theatre. Huntsville is widely known as “Rocket City” and is home not only to NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center, but also to Homer Hickam, Jr. himself, who is currently working on the book.

Most recently, the musical presented its much-anticipated New York industry-read on June 7, 2010, featuring an all-Broadway cast from current shows, like “*Rock of Ages*”, “*Wicked*”, and “*American Idiot*”. The audience included producers who have shown enthusiastic interest in the project, including reps from Universal Studios, which produced the acclaimed movie version of the book, “*October Sky*”.

Budinich is founder of *The Spotlight Theatre Company*, the first resident theater company at WPU. He also founded, along with regional director/producer, Gregory Allen, the *North Jersey New Found Theatre Festival* (NJNFTF). The festival attracted plays from the tri-state area, offering readings and talk-back sessions to every play presented.

“ We are delighted and honored to have Chris as our Playwright-in-Residence this Fall,” said Randy Rader, theater professor at PCCC.

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