

TRUENOTE*PRODUCTIONS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

Mark Walter Braswell's WWII musical, *Paying the Price*, has been booked for productions at the **Media Theatre for the Performing Arts** near **Philadelphia**. The performances will include a show on Saturday, November 11, 2006 – Veteran's Day.

Media Theatre, an 800-seat professional venue, ranks as one of the East Coast's top regional theatres. Built in 1927 as a vaudeville and silent movie palace, it underwent major renovations in the 1990s to restore its Art Deco splendor. Media Theatre is now producing 5 major musicals per season.

Jesse Cline, Media Theatre's Artistic Director, is seeking to use Braswell's musical as part of an educational outreach program. "I plan to bring in hundreds of high school students to see the musical at various times, perhaps throughout the year," Cline says. "After they see *Paying the Price*, we want to have the students visit the new **Pennsylvania Veterans Museum**, which is just a block away." Cline added, "And the Veterans' Day performance will really give us the chance to honor those in our community and elsewhere who have fought for our country."

Paying the Price depicts the true story of Mark's father, **Judge Edwin Maurice Braswell**, who left a small town in North Carolina to find himself soon battling in the skies of Europe against the Germans. As a tail gunner on a B-17, Braswell had many brushes with death, including one that forced him to bail from his burning plane. He was then captured and placed in a prison camp in Bucharest where he received the compassionate treatment of **Princess Catherine of Romania**.

The details of Judge Braswell's service to his country were not revealed until 2001 when he began to write it down for his children and grandchildren. That true story now comes to life through Mark's dramatic dialogue and his eight original songs, as well as over 100 images depicting the 1940s (many of which are from Judge Braswell's actual military service).

Having written several other musicals and revues, Mark, an **ASCAP** member, felt almost destined to develop *Paying the Price*. "Maybe the prior shows I had written were somehow preparing me to bring my father's incredible story to the stage," he said. "I'm just glad that others are now saluting him and other WWII veterans for their service." "And to think that the musical will now educate young adults about the price Americans have paid for our freedom, well, it seems to make the years of dedication to the project worthwhile."

Paying the Price began in 2003 when Mark mounted initial readings in conjunction with the Playwrights Forum, including two at the **Kennedy Center's Page-to-Stage Festival**. This was followed by a staged reading at the **National Theatre** (Helen Hayes Gallery). In October 2004, *Paying the Price* enjoyed its first limited, commercial production, which was an overwhelming success. Those shows were produced by the **Cape Fear Regional Theatre** in conjunction with the **U.S. Army's Airborne & Special Operations Museum** in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

For ticket info about the upcoming performances at Media Theatre, please call **610-891-0100** or visit www.mediatheatre.org. The theatre is located at **104 East State St., Media, PA 19063**, 2.5 hours north of Washington and just south of downtown Philadelphia.