

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Novel Explores the Effects of *Love on the Big Screen*

(Williamsburg, Virginia • January 21, 2010) Cherokee McGhee announces the signing of Bill Torgerson's *Love on the Big Screen* for publication in the winter of 2011.

Love on the Big Screen is the story of Zuke, a college freshman whose understanding of love has been shaped by late-eighties romantic comedies, and who attends a school so strict it's against the rules to go to the movies. Zuke and his buddies, separated from the women on campus and forced to entertain themselves, form a club called the Brothers in Pursuit, which holds weekly meetings during which all the members dress in matching and embroidered boxer shorts, stand at attention to Cyndi Lauper's "True Colors," and report back to one another on their objectives: God, knowledge, compassion, and women. *Love on the Big Screen* is a novel of friendship, the dangers of romanticized love, the complexities of faith and real life, and what happens to one young man as he discovers that life is nothing like the movies he loves.

"When I read the manuscript," Greg Lilly, Cherokee McGhee publisher, says, "I couldn't wait to see what happened on the next page. The charm of the book is part engaging and well-drawn characters, part Bill's great writing, and part recognition that I've walked this road in the 1980s." The book is a coming of age story that is on a higher level than most, it's the realization that a true relationship goes further and is more involved than a two-hour movie romance, that an object of pursuit may not be as worthy as the first scene promised, that broad daylight illuminates more than what's shown on the screen.

Author Bill Torgerson explains the draw of the subject matter, "The films that so mesmerized my teenage self followed a similar sequence: boy sees girl and falls in love, boy pursues girl, boy and girl get together, boy and girl break up temporarily, and finally, boy and girl end up together and kiss. The end." These were the plots of the teen movies of the '80s. "Silly, naïve, and ignorant me," he adds, "that's how I thought life would work, and that I believed such a thing into my twenties, caused me a good deal of surprise and emotional pain. In writing *Love on the Big Screen*, I wanted to tell a story that psychologically subverted the plotlines I had so

ingested as a teenager, a story that would show the dangers of romanticized love, and also a story that would offer a more realistic way for how love works."

Love on the Big Screen is slated for a winter 2011 publication from Cherokee McGhee. Visit www.CherokeeMcGhee.com for more information on the publishing house and its current and future novels.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bill Torgerson is an assistant professor in the Institute for Writing Studies at St. John's University in Queens, New York. His poetry and nonfiction have appeared in journals such as *The Leaflet*, *Arts and Letters*, and several others. He wrote an essay entitled "Battling Boyle" in which he takes his first sentences of *Love on the Big Screen* and imagines them in a boxing match with the first sentences of T.C. Boyle's novel, *World's End*. The essay is available on the Sol Books website. *Love on the Big Screen* is Torgerson's first published novel.

The son of two English teachers, Torgerson is a 1994 graduate of Olivet Nazarene University, where he majored in English Education and spent a lot of time sitting on the bench of the school's basketball team. A fictional version of this university served as the setting for *Love on the Big Screen*'s Pison College. Over an 11 year time span, Torgerson taught every grade six through twelve in the public schools of Indiana and North Carolina, and in the year 2000 he was an assistant coach for a North Carolina high school state champion basketball team.

While earning a master's degree in English Education from the University of North Carolina Charlotte, Torgerson participated in a National Writing Project Summer Institute, read Stephen King's *On Writing* and Donald Murray's *Write to Learn*, and that experience—along with the institute's two week period of daily reading and writing—caused him to become obsessed with being a writer. Torgerson went on for a second graduate degree, this one an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, hometown of the renowned writer Flannery O'Connor. Currently, Torgerson is an active member in the National Council for Teachers of English, the Association of Writers and Writing Programs, College Composition and Communication, and the National Writing Project. He lives in Stratford, Connecticut with his wife and two daughters, and he can often be found listening to books on CD while commuting his way to and from the first year writing courses that he teaches at St. John's.

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