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***Love on the Big Screen* Explores the '80s Effect on Relationships**

(Williamsburg, Virginia • February 8, 2011) William J. Torgerson's new novel *Love on the Big Screen* hits the streets with an exploration of love and the lessons learned from the eighties movies of John Hughes, Cameron Crowe, and The Brat Pack .

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.

"William Torgerson does for movies what Nick Hornby did for music," says *Spit Baths* author and Flannery O'Connor Award winner Greg Downs. "Torgerson writes with sincerity, clarity, and, most importantly, an antic sense of humor about the way men use and misuse the conventions of love in popular culture to connect and fail to connect with the women around them." *Love on the Big Screen* 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.

Matt Litton, author of *The Mockingbird Parables*, says the novel "pursues truths about Hollywood's impact on the way we see the world in a hilarious, compelling, and very honest way."

Author William 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."

William Torgerson's screenplay adaptation of *Love on the Screen* was awarded the Grand Prize in the Flickers Rhode Island International Screenplay Competition. He will be featured in the festival's ScriptBiz screenwriting workshop in August of 2011.

Love on the Big Screen is available now at bookstores and on-line at Amazon.com and BN.com from Cherokee McGhee Publishing.

Visit www.CherokeeMcGhee.com for more information on the publishing house and its current and future novels. For more information on William Torgerson, please visit www.TheTorg.com.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

William J. Torgerson, "Torg" to many of his friends and students, grew up the son of two English teachers in the rural town of Winamac, Indiana where he spent most of his time playing basketball and cruising up and down the Tippecanoe River in a small motorboat. In 1989, William began a four year stint sitting on the bench for the basketball team at Olivet Nazarene University, a school which serves as the inspiration for *Love on the Big Screen's* fictionalized Pison College. Upon William's graduation from college, he became the head boys' basketball coach at North Miami High School in Denver, Indiana.

Following eight years of coaching and teaching in Indiana and North Carolina, William began to feel a tug toward the more peaceful and reflective life of reading and writing over the long and stressful hours of coaching. This became even more evident when he was grateful for the end of another season even though the team had won the state title. 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 became convinced that he could learn to be a daily writer and that would be a good way to spend a life.

In 2006, William graduated from Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, home of the legendary writer Flannery O'Connor, with an M.F.A. degree in Creative Writing. Currently, William is an assistant professor in the Institute For Writing Studies at St. John's University in New York. His adaptation of *Love on the Screen* was awarded the Grand Prize in the Flickers Rhode Island International Screenplay Competition. William will take part in the festival's ScriptBiz screenwriting workshop in August of 2011. In addition to novels and screenplays, William writes short stories and articles on teaching and writing, and his work has appeared most recently in the University of Maryland's *Sakura*, Old Dominion University's *Barely South Review*, and NYU's interdisciplinary journal *Anamesa*. Currently, William lives with his wife and two daughters and commutes to Queens from Connecticut several times a week to teach first year writing courses at St. John's University. You can read more about "Torg" on his website, <TheTorg.com>.

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