

**The Lively Arts
Fall Semester 2009
Topic Guide**

Topic #8 REALITY, MORALITY, AND MORTALITY IN THE ARTS

October 28, 2009

**Michael Haley '65
Hollywood actor, writer, and producer
UMass Amherst Eleanor Bateman Alumni Scholar in Residence**

**Introduction by Harley Erdman
Associate Professor in Dramaturgy at UMass Amherst
Chair, UMass Amherst Department of Theater, 2002-2007**

Michael R. Haley, Jr. is a producer, assistant director, and actor with sixty-one feature films and eighteen movies for television to his credit, including two-time Golden Globe award winner *Closer* and the seven-time Emmy Award winning HBO miniseries *Angels in America*. His work has earned several awards, including two Humanitas Awards--for *Wit* and for *Angels in America*; Director's Guild of America Citation for *Working Girl* and DGA Award for *Angels in America*; and an Emmy for *Angels in America*.

He was born in Pittsfield, MA and graduated from UMass Amherst in 1965 with a major in speech therapy. Following graduate study in Granada, Spain, he returned to the U.S. where he worked as a Vista volunteer, bartender, and part-time teacher, and helped develop the Buffalo Meat Company, an avant-garde theater troupe that performed original works. It was during this time that Haley landed his first low-budget movie deal, *Honeymoon Killers*. From there doors opened to NET television in New York, and entrance into the first Director's Guild of American Assistant Directors Training Program as one of ten accepted from two thousand applicants.

Haley has worked with some of America's greatest directors, including Sidney Lumet, Sidney Pollock, Penny Marshall, Harold Ramis, and Mike Nichols. His relationship with Nichols spans more than thirty years and twelve films, including *Biloxi Blues*, *Working Girl*, *Primary Colors*, *Angels in America* and most recently *Charlie Wilson's War*. He has worked with a wide spectrum of actors and actresses, including Katherine Hepburn, Harrison Ford, Meryl Streep, and Madonna. As an actor he has played roles opposite Sophia Loren, Christian Slater, John Travolta, and perhaps most memorably, as the umpire who throws Tom Hanks out of the game in *A League of Their Own*.

Reminders:

- Required Event: *Romeo and Juliet*, Nov 3, 7:30pm, Bowker Auditorium. Response due at lecture Dec 2
- Classical Music Response due at lecture Nov 4
- Quiz #4: in lecture Nov 4
- Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, Nov 5, 7:30pm, FAC Concert Hall. Response due at lecture Nov 18