

TRACK 16 TALES

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March/April 2006

EXTRA!! EXTRA!!

THURSDAY, MARCH 30 FROM 7:30 - 9:30 P.M. SCREENING AND WRAP FOR 5 STORIES HIGH

Beer, popcorn, hotdogs, and short videos featuring the artists from 5 Stories High: Georganne Deen, Llyn Foulkes, Manuel Ocampo, Raymond Pettibon, Alan Rath

—TALL TALES—

Play #6 in The Kentucky Cycle by Robert Schenkkan

Thursday and Friday, April 6 & 7, 2006
8:00 P.M., *\$7, RSVP

Directed by Martin Papazian
With: Tara Buck, Alexis Corey, Lee DeBroux,
Steve Fite, Shelia Grenham, & Martin Papazian

As a "preview" to Coal Hollow: Photographs by Ken Light, Track 16 presents a reading of "Tall Tales," one of nine plays included in The Kentucky Cycle by Robert Schenkkan, winner of the 1992 Pulitzer Prize. Schenkkan began the work that would become The Kentucky Cycle with the short play, "Tall Tales," focusing on a family's struggle with modernity and industry in the twentieth century. It is a simple tale set in 1890: a charming young man visits the family homestead and entralls the daughter while charming her parents. Her father, signs off the mineral rights to his land for a paltry sum. Later in a spasm of guilt, the charming stranger warns the young daughter what the mining companies will do to the land, but she chooses not to believe him. Self-delusion in the face of impossible decisions becomes a motif of The Kentucky Cycle. Directed by Marty Papazian.

*A portion of the proceeds will go to Coal River Mountain Watch (a community based group dedicated to stopping mountaintop removal and to improve the quality of community life) and Mercer Health Right (a free clinic located in Bluefield, West Virginia.)



Photo: Ken Light

COAL HOLLOW: PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEN LIGHT April 8 through May 12, 2006

Saturday, April 8
Opening reception and book signing
5 to 7 P.M., followed by a discussion
with Ken and Melanie Light, a DVD
presentation, music, and readings
from 6 to 9 P.M.

Coal is still king in much of Appalachia, yet the heritage and history of the people who enabled the United States to become an economic superpower in the Industrial age are slipping away. Ken Light documents this culture by presenting arresting black and white photographs that chronicle the legacy of coal mining in southern West Virginia. Ken and Melanie Light traveled hundreds of miles through rugged, isolated terrain recording the stories of a range of people whose lives were shaped by coal: retired miners, men and women who have been jobless their entire lives, a contemporary coal baron, a justice of the State Supreme Court of West Virginia, a writer who bravely ran for governor on a third party ticket, and people who returned to the hills when their lives failed elsewhere. What emerges is a complex portrait of people locked into an intricate web of geography, history, and unfettered profiteering. In Light's poignant images and in their own distinctive voices, the residents of Coal Hollow, a fictional composite of the communities the Lights surveyed, reveal how the intersection of mountain culture and the greed of the coal companies produced the most powerful economy in the world yet reduced a region of proud people to crushing poverty.

Coal Hollow; Photographs and Oral Histories by Ken Light and Melanie Light (University California Press, 2006.) with forewords by Orville Schell and Robert Reich will be available for purchase for the duration of the exhibition. Book signing on Saturday, April 8 from 5-7 P.M.



Photos: Ken Light