**Bird Millman & Dixie Willson**

A Play by August Mergelman

*Bird Millman and Dixie Willson* is a small-scale play that celebrates several chapters of show-business history that are unique nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The sole speaking role, Dixie Willson, tells of her own journey as a playwright, a screenwriter, and a lackluster circus performer. Along the way, she gives an account of the life of her dear friend Bird Millman, star of Vaudeville, *The Ziegfeld Follies*, and the Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey Circus. With so many obstacles before them, and broken relationships behind them, the two women continually find that they always have each other to turn to.

Listed below are production elements that would potentially benefit the presentation:

1. In a series of intermittent dance sequences, a ballerina, veiled in silhouette, could assume the persona of Bird Millman.

2. Samuel Stokes wrote the score to the original conception of the show, then a full-scale musical. Though that version of the script has since been shelved, pieces of his score are still quite usable and could easily underscore the action of the new script.

3. An elaborate series of projections, something like a upscale powerpoint presentation, could help tell the story on a visual plane. Depending on the ambition of the production, as many as three screens could be employed. Projections would consist mainly of original photographs, though original illustrations and short film reels would be a fine addition.

4. In the interest of keeping the cost of the production low, the playwright will not require a flat payment of royalties; rather, a royalty in the form of the percentage of the production’s profit (provided it is profitable) can be negotiated before production is mounted.

For further information, please contact the playwright directly:

August Mergelman

augustmergelman.weebly.com

jaugust2010@gmail.com

719-238-4344