

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA
PRESS OFFICE**

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BUSTED: A Tribute to Jason Miller

Scranton, PA---On August 19, 2005, the Jason Miller Memorial Monument Fund Committee in conjunction with the Lackawanna County Department of Education and Culture will host a party in tribute to Scranton's premier playwright. The event will be titled "That Championship Party".

"Jason Miller loved Scranton. He felt deeply connected to the people and places of Lackawanna County," said Joseph Price, Esq., Chairman, "That Championship Party". "He truly demonstrated that love by returning to Scranton after achieving fame and success. We want to honor Jason for his commitment to his hometown with this tribute," continued Price.

The profits accumulated from the tribute party will fund the creation of a Jason Miller bust by actor and long-time friend Paul Sorvino.

Mr. Sorvino has been an accomplished sculptor for 30 years and has produced over 100 pieces varying in size and subject matter. "The creative process is different because he was such a close friend for so many years," stated Sorvino. "It will be my feelings about Jason that will be reflected through my hands. The feeling of the man is a big thing. People can do likenesses, but it's about catching the life and the sense. If I can do that, I'll be very pleased," continued Sorvino.

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The party will begin at 6 p.m. with cocktails, live music provided by the Rich Jenkins Trio and marvelous foods “under the tent” on the Everhart Museum Lawn. Attendees will have the chance to walk the red carpet and potentially appear in a real film. New York filmmaker, Rebecca Marshall, will be interviewing and filming guests for her upcoming feature documentary on Jason Miller.

The party will continue at 7:45 p.m. with a special screening of “That Championship Season” at Hanlon’s Grove Amphitheater at Nay Aug Park. This 1999 film was written by Jason and directed by Paul Sorvino. The film also stars Sorvino, along with critically-acclaimed actors Gary Sinise, Vincent D’Onofrio and others.

A complimentary shuttle service will transport guests from the Everhart Lawn to Hanlon’s Grove Amphitheater.

The party is made possible through the kind support of Dougherty, Leventhal & Price, LLP, The Lomma Family (Ralph, Joyce & Jonathan, Esq.) and The Scranton Public Theatre. The assortment of foods and beverages were generously donated by some of the area’s best in dining; Anna Maria’s Restaurant, Concessions Plus, Inc.-Stadium Club Restaurant, Farley’s, Gelpia’z, Jilly’s Restaurant, Schiff’s, Bistocchi’s and Russell’s Restaurant.

Mr. Sorvino donated his time and talent to create the sculpture, but all materials for construction will come from funds accumulated from the tribute party.

The Jason Miller bust will go on a still-to-be-determined site on Courthouse Square in Scranton in a new area devoted to citizens of arts and letters. The Miller bust is expected to be completed and in place on the Square sometime this year.

“Lackawanna County is very excited to honor Jason Miller and to use his great accomplishments as a cornerstone for the creation of a new plaza on Courthouse Square dedicated to local achievers in arts and letters,” said Commissioner Robert C. Cordaro.

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Tickets are \$50 per person; \$75 per couple; \$100 per patron. Please make checks payable to the Jason Miller Memorial Monument Fund. The party is limited to 200 guests.

Jason Miller is best known for his Oscar-nominated role as Father Damien Karras in the 1973 classic horror film "The Exorcist", but his career primarily revolved around the stage. His play "That Championship Season" was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1973. The play went on to win a Tony Award and the New York Drama Critics Award. Later, Miller wrote and directed the film version starring screen legends; Robert Mitchum, Martin Sheen, Bruce Dern and Paul Sorvino. Along with local Scranton actor, Robert Shlesinger, Miller co-created the Scranton Public Theater, while acting and directing in many regional stage productions. Mr. Miller died on May 13, 2001 in Scranton. He was 62 years of age.

For tickets contact:

The Jason Miller Memorial Monument Fund Committee

C/o Regina Peters, Executive Director

Lackawanna County Department of Education and Culture

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