



The Hours

Michael Cunningham

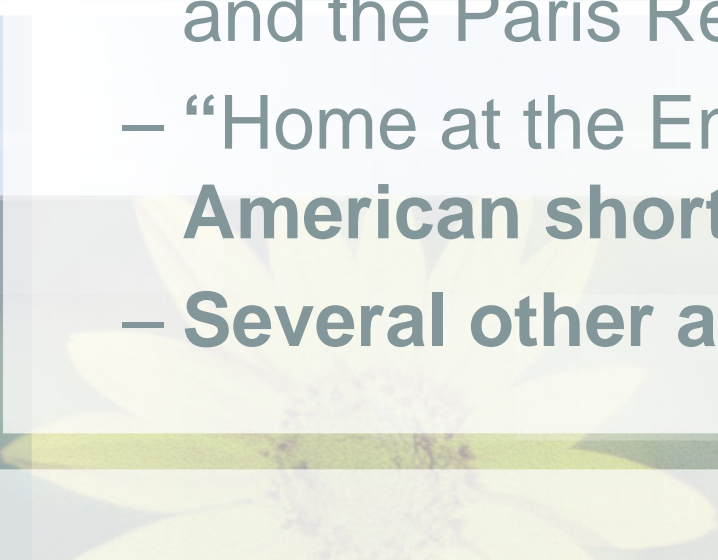
Irma Garcia
Jewels Johnson
Laura Yousef



Michael Cunningham (1952-)

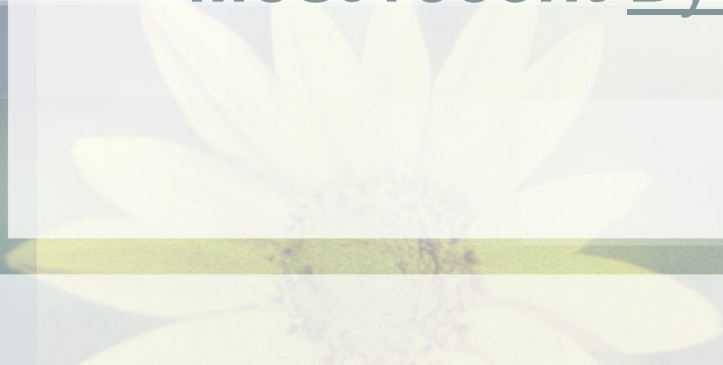


- **American writer born in Ohio**
- **Eng. Lit. degree at Stanford Univ.**
- **Univ. of Iowa received Michener Fellowship and Master of Fine Arts**
 - **Several short stories** “Atlantic Monthly and the Paris Review”
 - “Home at the End of the World” **in best American short stories (1989)**
 - **Several other awards**

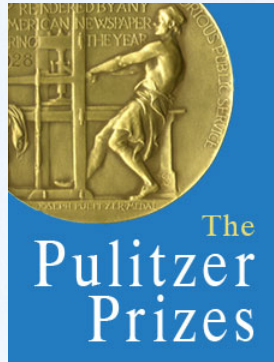




- Taught at Fine Arts Work Center in Mass. and creative writing program in Brooklyn College
- Currently a professor at Yale
- Edited book for Walt Whitman
- Producer for “Evening” (2007)
- Several other novels
 - Most recent By Nightfall (2010)



- **Awards and Achievements**

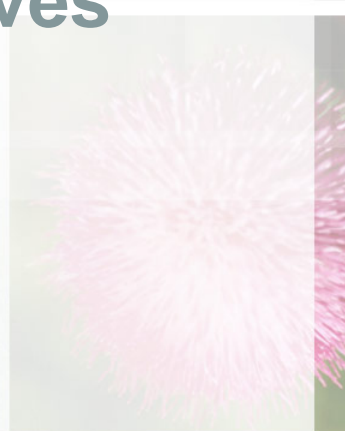


Characters (Mrs. Dalloway)



- **Clarissa Vaughan**
 - based on Clarissa Dalloway
 - questions past choices
 - domestic stability shattered by Richard
 - domesticity of today vs. rebellious youth of the past
 - lesbian book editor

- **Richard Brown**
- **Sally**
- **Julia**
- **Louis**
- **Mary Krull**
- **Walter Hardy**
- **Oliver St. Ives**

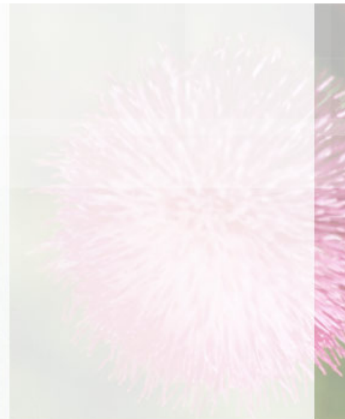


(Mrs. Woolf)



- **Virginia Woolf**
 - few days before her suicide
 - losing her mind yet working on Mrs. Dalloway
 - forced to “rest”...monitored
 - knows of her condition...fights
 - desire to get better but is haunted by illness itself

- **Leonard Woolf**
- **Nelly**
- **Vanessa Bell**
- **Kids**
 - Julian
 - Quentin
 - Angelica



(Mrs. Brown)

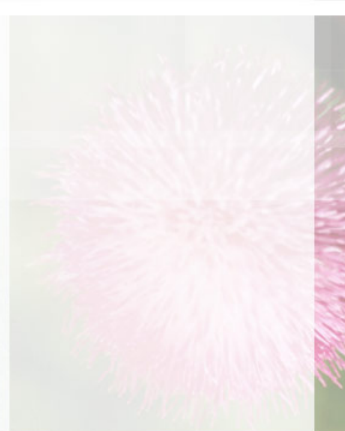


- **Laura Brown**

- Product of her times
- Suffocated by role
- Wants more but feels she should be content
- Relates to **Septimus' suicide**

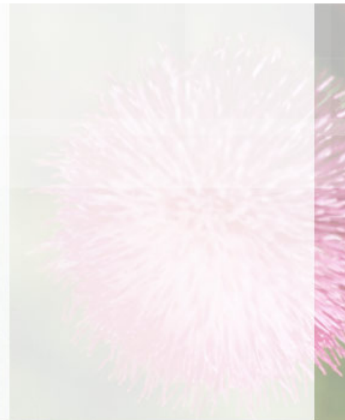
- **Richie**

- **Dan Brown**
- **Kitty**



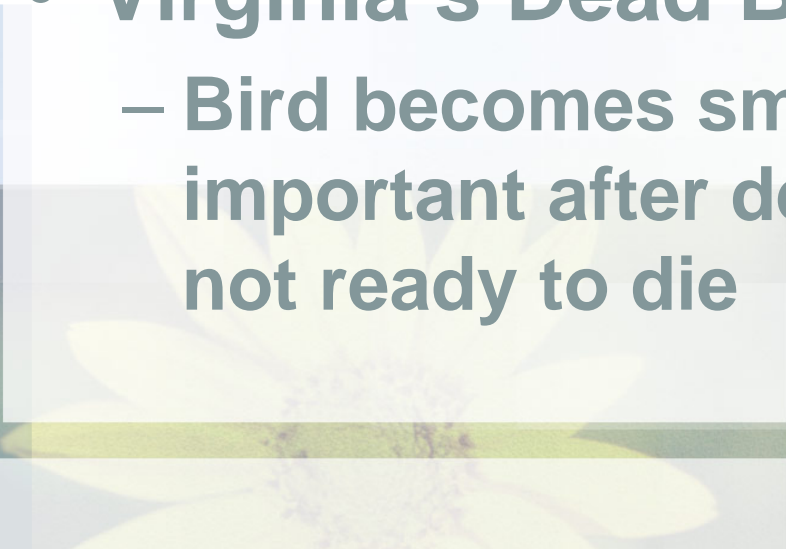
Themes

- **Life and Death**
- **Society and Roles**
- **Homosexuality**



Symbols

- **Richard's "decaying" chair**
 - Represents his health/life deteriorating
- **Laura's cake**
 - Her being nothing more than a domestic
- **Virginia's Dead Bird**
 - Bird becomes smaller and less important after death, decides she's not ready to die



Layers / Define Woman



Virginia Woolf (Mrs. Dalloway)

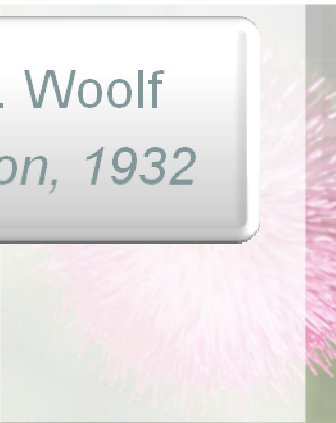
Michael Cunningham (The Hours)

Mrs. Clarissa Dalloway

Clarissa Vaughn
New York, end of 20th century

Mrs. Laura Brown
Los Angeles, Post WWII

Mrs. Woolf
London, 1932



Film Adaption (2002)

Interview: Same Old, Brand New
Michael Cunningham
Dave Weich, Powells.com
(<http://www.powells.com/authors/cunningham.html>)

“...It was a little bit like having known someone intimately who died, and then meeting someone alive and understanding that this is that person reincarnated. Their gestures, their eyes... *Oh, wait, it's you, but in another body...*”

