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**RENOWNED PLAYWRIGHT AND AUTHOR JOHN PIELMEIER TO SPEAK  
AT LORETTO MUSEUM**

Loretto – Renowned author John Pielmeier will make an appearance at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto in September. The Museum will present “An Evening with John Pielmeier” at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12. Pielmeier will speak about his work as a playwright, screenwriter and novelist and will offer a reading from his novel, *Hook’s Tale*. The presentation also will feature a discussion on Ken Follett’s *The Pillars of the Earth*, for which Pielmeier wrote the screenplay and acted in the television miniseries. Cost is \$20 per person and \$5 for students.

A native of Altoona, Pielmeier earned a B.A. from Catholic American University and an M.F.A. from Penn State University. He began his career as an actor, although he has gained tremendous prominence for his writing for stage and screen. His play, *Agnes of God*, enjoyed a seventeen-month run on Broadway. His screenplay for the screen adaptation starring Jane Fonda earned him a nomination for the Writers Guild of America Award.

Other plays such as *The Boys of Winter*, *Sleight of Hand* and *Voices in the Dark* also enjoyed runs on Broadway. His latest play, a stage adaptation of William Peter Blatty’s *The Exorcist*, premiered in 2016 to extraordinary box office and fantastic reviews and will open in London on Halloween. It is scheduled to appear on Broadway in 2018.

In 1983, Pielmeier penned the television movie *Choices of the Heart*, about the slain American missionaries in El Salvador, for which he received a Christopher Award, the Humanitas Award, a Writers Guild of America nomination for Best Teleplay, and an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from St. Edward’s University. Other television credits include *Sins of the Father*, which broke viewer records when it first aired on FX; *Happy Face Murders*, which also broke viewership records for its initial airing on Showtime; the Emmy-nominated *Hitler: The Rise of Evil*; *The Capture of the Green River Killer*, a miniseries which broke viewership records by 250% when it aired on Lifetime Movie Network and was later named by *Variety* as one of the Top Television Events of 2008; and *The Pillars of the Earth*, an eight-hour Starz series based on Ken Follett’s best-selling novel. *The Pillars of the Earth* received three Golden Globe nominations, earned Pielmeier his fifth nomination for a Writers Guild Award, and also received an Emmy nomination for Best Miniseries.

Pielmeier's first novel, *Hook's Tale*, is a memoir written by Captain James Hook, the notorious pirate and arch-enemy of Peter Pan. Both a boy's adventure and a man's coming of age story, *Hook's Tale* presents Hook's version of his own story, one far different from the one penned by J.M. Barrie. The book was published by Scribner in July and is available wherever books are sold.

For tickets to "An Evening with John Pielmeier" please call the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at (814) 472-3920. Reservations are required by September 8. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Pielmeier will be doing a book signing after the presentation. Copies of *Hook's Tale* will be available for purchase at the Museum during the event.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is located on the campus of Saint Francis University. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Museum is open to the public free of charge. For more information, please call the Museum or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).