



**Robert Potter Playwriting Fund, Department of Theater and Dance**  
**Established August 2010**

A fund is being established in the Department of Theater at UC Santa Barbara where playwright Robert Potter spent nearly four decades infusing students with the love of theater. To honor his memory, this fund is being established by Earl Potter, Robert's brother. When the fund reaches a minimum of \$10,000, it will be endowed and will provide a permanent legacy to Bob.

The purpose of the fund is to reward and inspire undergraduate and/or graduate students to write plays or pieces for stage. Students involved in Playwriting or Writing for Performance will be eligible to benefit from this fund. The fund will be administered by the Chair of the Department of Theater and Dance in consultation with the appropriate faculty working in Playwriting or Writing for Performance.

Please make checks payable to the **UC Regents** and indicate it is for the: Robert Potter Writing Fund and mail to:

Department of Theater and Dance  
Attn: Linda Flegal  
Mail Code 7060  
552 University Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-7060

**Obituary**

Poet, playwright, retired UCSB professor and political activist Bob Potter's thirty plus works stretched from "Where Is Sicily?" in 1969 to "The Last Days of Empire" in 2008. Family and close friends will soon publish a volume of his favorite pieces entitled Six Plays. Often political in their topics and themes, Potter's works are bitterly funny, sometimes set in surreal worlds, with ideas drawn from classical literature, history and even the insect kingdom. Potter also adapted plays and collaborated with other writers.

With Ellen Anderson, Potter formed the Santa Barbara Theater group Dramatic Women, which encourages a wide range of community voices. He was also a founding board member of Center Stage Theatre in Paseo Nuevo where most of the company's fifteen productions were mounted.

Bob Potter's academic career was dominated by theater, too, though he began as an English literature professor. He joined UCSB's drama department in 1972 (started as an English professor in 1966) and was also head of the playwriting program until 2001. At UCSB, Potter was deeply affected by the student anti-Vietnam War protests and the subsequent riots in Isla Vista. With economist Jim Sullivan, Bob proudly co-authored "The Campus by the Sea Where the Bank Burned Down" for the Presidential Commission on Campus Unrest.

Born in New York, Potter was raised in Brentwood, California, the son of Hollywood director H.C. Potter. Potter attended the Harvard Military Academy and studied literature at Pomona College in 1952 during the worst years of the Hollywood blacklist. His graduate work was at Claremont College and in 1963 Potter was a Rhodes Scholar at the University of Bristol. He was a visiting professor at the University of London in 1985.