

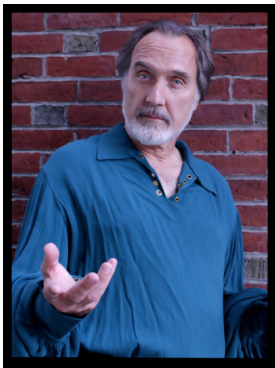
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2017 - 7:00 PM

The Friends of the Marlborough Public Library's  
2017-2018 SPECIAL PROGRAM SERIES



PRESENTS

*“Butterfly”* - Life of artist James McNeil Whistler  
One man show by actor Stephen Collins



Butterfly is a one man show about the life and times of New England native, James McNeil Whistler the volatile American artist who struggled for personal freedom and artistic expression mostly in Victorian England. He was a leading proponent of the credo “art for art’s sake.” The play depicts Whistler at two phases of his life – first, as a bankrupt artist on commission in Venice in his forties and then as the established yet lonely legend in his sixties in London.

The title of the play is drawn from the artist’s signature on his paintings was in the shape of a stylized butterfly possessing a long stinger for a tail. The symbol combined two aspects of his personaility – his art which was characterized by a subtle delicacy and public persona which was combative. Whistler blended his work with music by entitling them “arrangements”, “harmonies”, and “nocturnes”. The play ends with a pointy description of how Whistler came to paint his most famous painting *Arrangement in Grey and Black No. 1* which is commonly known as Whistler’s Mother - the revered portrait of motherhood.

Stephen Collins is currently performing eight one-man shows and has met rave reviews for over a decade. Mr. Collins' performances deliver not just the poetry and plays, but they bring poets and playwrights to life on the stage. The shows also convey an understanding of the impact and the reactions of the characters to their respective times, giving the audience not just a performance, but an experience.

Stephen is a frequent lecturer at library forums, historical societies, senior centers and professional organizations and has appeared several times in the Friends Special Program Series. Stephen Collins grew up in Cambridge, and received a BA in Literature from UMass Boston. Recently he has been teaching seminars on Whitman, Hardy, Shakespeare, Frost, and Contemporary Poetry at various locations throughout the country. He also works as a professionally licensed tour guide doing narrated historical tours of Boston.

Marlborough Public Library--35 West Main Street--Marlborough, MA

FREE ADMISSION \*\*\*\*\* PUBLIC WELCOME

Auditorium is fully handicapped accessible

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For further info please call: 508-481-7118/413-648-9663

or email: writeathome@hotmail.com or rajohnson736@gmail.com

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