

# Poet Finds Humor In Being 'Suddenly Single'

Poet and storyteller Carol Burnes will present her new performance piece, "Suddenly Single," Tuesday evening at 7:30 in Woods Hole Community Hall, 68 Water Street, to benefit the Woods Hole Historical Museum. Admission is \$10 at the door, beginning at 7. Further information is available by calling 508-548-7270.

Brought up in what was once a rural suburb west of Boston, Ms. Burnes has seen many changes in her lifetime since she rode her horse through the woods. She still lives in what used to be her grandmother's barn, where the problems of being "suddenly single" are magnified.

Faced by the death of both her mother and husband and the moving away of her adult children, Ms. Burnes wrestles with emotional loss and material accumulation. Using stories, poetry, and improvisational acting, she explores new roles and options with moments of hilarity in the midst of frustration and grief.

"Suddenly Single" had its initial performance this December at the Kings Head Theatre in London.

Using her copyrighted "Discoveries" method, Ms. Burnes has taught writing for the past 20 years in schools, both public and independent, and at colleges and universities here and in England. She held a lectureship at Boston University's School of Education and has taught lawyers at BU Law School, men and women in business, teachers, and professional writers. She leads workshops and does teacher training in her "Discoveries" method of teaching writing. She is a member of the



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Storytellers' Workshop. Among her mentors are storyteller Jay O'Callahan and improvisational actor Daena Giardella.

Several years ago, Ms. Burnes opened the Deer Island sewage treatment plant in Boston Harbor with her commissioned performance piece "The Big Flush," which was followed by a commission from Tufts University to write and perform a piece for Mystic River Water Association's celebration of the Mystic River.

Ms. Burnes has published internationally in magazines and

anthologies and has three books of poems: *Roots and Wings*, *An Episode of Buttons*, and *Fine Lines*. Last summer, she participated in a poetry reading with Alison Robb, Mary Swope, and Steve Malkus.