

Playwright opts for G rating

By John Darcy

BEACON — A kinder, gentler underworld where errant mobsters are relegated to restaurant work.

A mortuary, though offering deep discounts, is paid off in deposit beer cans...

The tie that binds the two comedies by Beacon playwright Nicholas Conti is that endangered species of the entertainment world, a G rating.

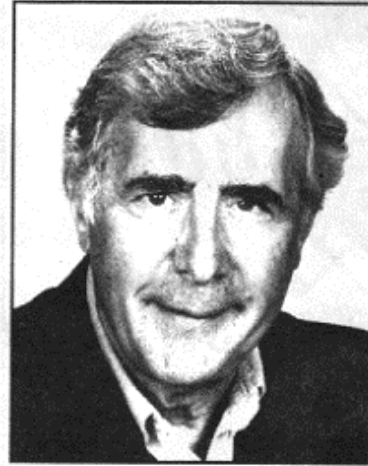
"I think it's good, in this day and age, that more and more publishing houses are catering to church groups, schools and the like," Conti says.

The two one-act plays, "Godmother 1" and "The Legacy," were published recently for performance purposes by Drama Source. The company provides a script service for productions of family-friendly plays and music.

Besides the publisher's G-rated-only interests, Conti signed on with Drama Source to realize "my aspirations of actually having the plays produced."

While he awaits a production of "Godmother 1" and "The Legacy," his "Alessandro" was performed in a staged reading at the Depot Theater in Garrison two years ago.

Conti takes on the role of writer after many years on the other side of the footlights.



Nicholas Conti in a publicity photo.

As an actor, he appeared on the big screen in the classic film "The Hustler" (1961), and was also in the highly regarded "Love with the Proper Stranger" (1963). His TV resume includes "The Defenders," "The Jackie Gleason Show" and "The Nurses."

The Brooklyn native is also a veteran of Off-Broadway and summer stock, and filled acting/singing roles in the musicals "Guys & Dolls," "Paint Your Wagon," "She Loves

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Me," "110 in the Shade," "The Most Happy Fella" and "Three Penny Opera."

Speaking of opera, he portrayed the characters Marcello, in "La Boheme," and Germont, in "La Traviata."

All the stage and film work preceded his move to Beacon nearly 40 years ago.

Conti came here in 1966 to work as a radio announcer for WBNR/WSPK; he joined WEOK

and WWLE later. After leaving radio, he concluded his working years with Sears.

But, now retired, he's returned to his original arena where the play's the thing. Conti is hoping for performance and reader interest in "Godmother 1" and "The Legacy." Copies of the books, published by Drama Source, are available locally at World's End Books & Music, 532 Main St., Beacon.