

## MOLIÈRE WORKSHOPS

North Park University French professor Jennifer Morrissey received an AATF Small Grant from the Chicago/Northern Illinois AATF Chapter and then a larger grant from the national AATF. The AATF monies allowed Dr. Morrissey to launch a three-part program on Molière.

Tim Mooney, a professional actor, producer, and translator of Molière's plays, led the first part of the program: an interactive actors' workshop.

Tim Mooney provided a biographical and historical account of Molière's life and times. Molière aimed to achieve the greatness of Corneille and Racine, and today his work is most often compared with Shakespeare's. Students participated in scenes from *Tartuffe*, *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme*, *l'École des femmes*, and *le Malade imaginaire*. The actors' workshop was conducted in English, using Tim Mooney's translations.

A second seminar focused on pedagogical strategies for integrating role-play and readings from Molière into the French language curriculum. Guest speaker Larry Norman, a French professor from the University of Chicago and author of *The Public Mirror: Molière and the Social Commerce of Depiction*, began the seminar with a passionate discussion of Molière's relevance today and the political impact of farce. Next, Jennifer Morrissey described strategies including four corners exercises, anticipation guides, readers' theatre, book-in-a-box activities, inside-outside portraits, story maps, and pyramid think sheets. Judy Sugarman then introduced her FilmArotics series and described her philosophy of language acquisition through film. She gave a lesson from her study of the film *Molière*.

The third part of the series of workshops on Molière was *Molière Than Thou* by Tim Mooney. It is a 75-minute one-man-show featuring reenactments of famous scenes from *Tartuffe*, *le Bourgeois gentilhomme*, *l'École des femmes*, and *le Malade*

*imaginaire*. The English translations used were the actor's own. Tim Mooney called upon audience members to participate.

More than 300 high school students and faculty from Oak Park, Barrington, Niles, Freeport, Wilmette, and Chicago attended.



Larry Norman and Jennifer Morrissey

Students and faculty from DePaul, Dominican and North Park Universities also were there. Audience members gave Tim Mooney their full attention. Both quiet snickers and loud guffaws were heard. Seven students' names were drawn in a *tom-*

*bola* and winners received gifts including North Park University sweatshirts, binders, spiral notebooks, pens, and AATF posters and buttons.

We wish to express our gratitude to both the Chicago/Northern Illinois AATF Chapter and the national AATF for their generosity, without which these events could not have taken place.

Jennifer Morrissey  
North Park University (IL)



Tim Mooney as Molière