**T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* Recited from Memory**

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

For more information, contact:

CONTACT INFORMATION

Illustration: John Farrell and T. S. Eliot (illustration courtesy of Figures of Speech Theatre)

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/1y6hhhb68mgb5rj/Four%20Quartets%20-%20Eliot%20and%20Farrell.tif?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/1y6hhhb68mgb5rj/Four%2520Quartets%2520-%2520Eliot%2520and%2520Farrell.tif?dl=0)

Photos: John Farrell recites *Four Quartets* at Rogue Theatre in Tucson, Arizona (photos by Tim Fuller)

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John Farrell, principal in Maine’s groundbreaking Figures of Speech Theatre, recites from memory *Four Quartets*, a suite of poems often considered T.S. Eliot’s greatest, at TIME DATE LOCATION.

First undertaken in 2011 with permission — rarely granted — from Eliot’s estate, Farrell’s recitation of *Four Quartets* affords audiences an opportunity to immerse themselves in Eliot’s literary masterpiece, a complex, deeply moving meditation on time, memory, and experience itself. Farrell has performed the poems throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Writing at the height of his artistic powers, Eliot packed into the suite of poems a summation of his views on poetry and art, on mystical experience and the links between the living and the dead, and on the never-ceasing search for the divine.

“Farrell's delivery of ‘Four Quartets’ is as natural, deep, and illuminating as Kenneth Branagh doing Shakespeare," writes Ellen Doré Watson, Director, The Poetry Center at Smith College. “He inhabits the poems from the inside out, creating a rich, subtle, meditative experience, in which Eliot's words hover and resonate, provoke and delight.”

“Unlike encountering the poems on the page,” Farrell adds, “hearing them spoken from memory brings people a complex and nuanced work in a very direct way. At the same time, I bring an actor's sensibility to the text and a commitment to delivering the poems in a way that allows the poetry to speak for itself.”

Farrell recently completed a tour of *Four Quartets* to ten libraries in his home state of Maine. Following his performance at the Merrill Memorial Library in Yarmouth, Poetry at the Library director Mary Dowd wrote, “I was stunned: the poem I heard recited was not the one I thought I knew. John’s performance was a milestone experience, surpassing what I expected, or could even imagine.”

Figures of Speech Theatre, co-founded by Farrell and his wife, Carol Farrell, has toured the world for forty years with original works created at the intersection of drama, poetry, sculpture and dance. The company has performed in venues including the New Victory Theater, the Smithsonian Institution, the Kennedy Center, and Tokyo’s International House. In 1999 the Farrells were among five American artists awarded Creative Artist Fellowships from the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, allowing them to spend six months in Japan studying Japanese theater, textiles and gardens.

VENUE INFORMATION

T.S. Eliot’s *Four Quartets* will be presented at TIME DATE LOCATION. TICKET INFORMATION. An informal conversation with John Farrell will follow. For more information, please CONTACT INFORMATION.

More information about Figures of Speech Theatre is available on their website: [www.figures.org](http://www.figures.org/).

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