



Very Good Years *A 90th Birthday* *Tribute to Ervin Drake*

*Featuring musical performances
and special guest appearances*

Composer and lyricist Ervin Drake earned recognition in 1942 when he wrote English lyrics to a popular Brazilian instrumental and produced the popular "Tico-Tico." In 1944 he repeated the trick and turned a Duke Ellington instrumental number into "Perdido." Other famous songs included "Al Di La," "Quando, Quando, Quando," "Made for Each Other," and "Come to the Mardi Gras," among many others. He found financial success in 1945 when Eddy Howard's recording of his "The Rickety Rickshaw Man" sold more than one million copies. His 1946 song "Good Morning Heartache" became a jazz standard and was recorded by Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Joe Williams, Billy Eckstine, Mel Tormé, Diana Ross and Rosemary Clooney, to name a few. He also wrote "Made for Each Other," "That's That," and "Yo Te Amo Mucho," which were all recorded by Xavier Cugat in the late 1940s. From 1948 to 1962, he focused on television work, and as writer/composer/producer was involved in more than 700 prime time network telecasts. Another popular Ervin Drake song, "I Believe," sold more than 20 million copies in various recordings. His 1961 song "It Was a Very Good Year" provided Frank Sinatra with his first top 10 hit in a decade and a Grammy Award in 1966.

On Broadway *What Makes Sammy Run?* was followed by *Her First Roman* in 1968, which received a 25th Anniversary recording as well as a recent revival at the York Theatre Company. Mr. Drake served as president of the American Guild of Authors and Composers from 1973 to 1982, has been recognized with many special awards, and is a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Currently Ervin Drake resides in Great Neck, New York.

Sunday, June 7, 2009, 2 p.m.

Monroe Lecture Center Theater, California Avenue, South Campus

Tickets: (Tickets go on sale beginning May 19.)

\$20 adult

\$17 senior citizen (over 65)

\$15 matriculated non-Hofstra student with ID

One free ticket with current faculty/staff/student HofstraCard

For tickets and information please call the John Cranford Adams Playhouse Box Office at (516) 463-6644, Monday through Friday, 11 a.m.-3:45 p.m.