

The Currier Lecture Series welcomes gifted writer and Professor of the Year

Jennifer Finney Boylan

Thursday, April 7, 2005 7:30 p.m. Schoedinger Theatre

Columbus Academy, 4300 Cherry Bottom Rd., Gahanna

Program is free and open to the public. For information, call 614-475-2311

“To thine own self be true...” Shakespeare wrote it. Boylan lives it.



Jenny Boylan's story details the search for an authentic life. An author/professor, Boylan risked everything to overcome being “out of sorts with the world.” Her journey from man to woman examines the territory that spans the genders, how friendships change and yet last, and how family bonds bend more often than break. Boylan's message will connect with anyone who has ever wanted to do something they feared was impossible and with anyone who has ever been guided along a difficult path by the people that they love.

Boylan, who is co-chair of the English Department at Maine's Colby College, has written nine books, including best-selling memoir *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders*, which addresses the issues of gender, family, friendship and acceptance.

Jenny Boylan was born transgendered and lived and published as James Finney Boylan until 2001, when she began formal sexual reassignment procedures. Boylan says she had known since a very young age that she was a female spirit in a male body and “that secret had placed a wall between me and the rest of the world, including the people I loved most.” Neither success as a writer and teacher nor as a husband and father could suppress the deeply felt knowledge.

Her choice to go from James to Jenny has raised discussions about how we identify ourselves, why gender matters and how one's inner voice offers crucial guidance in living an authentic, happy life. She will address those issues and others at the Currier Lecture presentation. Boylan has appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show and The Today Show, and her story has been profiled in *People* and *Newsweek*. She lives in Maine with her family and keeps busy writing, teaching and touring.

“[She's Not There] Serious, real, funny. Told so disarmingly that it's strong enough to defang a taboo.” -- Kirkus Reviews

“Honest and humorous... her quest for identity gets to the heart of what it means to love and be loved. -- Lifetime Magazine