

Lines from Linda

LINDA AYERS TURNER KNORR



AKC JUDGE WINS GRAND JURY AWARD AT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

A screenplay penned by AKC judge Rose Moore Tomlin was the winner of the Grand Jury Award at the recent **World Fest Charleston International Film Festival**. "Theodosia" is based on the true life story of Theodosia Burr Alston and her struggle for independence and recognition. From Tomlin's own synopsis we learn the following about the heroine of this screenplay.

Born in 1783, Theodosia is far more learned than are other women of her time. The widower, Aaron Burr, third Vice-President of the United States, insists on "a most perfect education" for his only child. Under his watchful eye, she mastered three languages, served as hostess to dignitaries as a teenager, and becomes an accomplished equestrian and musician. As she matured, her growing independence begins to clash with her father's plan for her. He envisions the two of them as a "team," propelled into great positions of power by his political savvy. She longs to be recognized for her own achievements. Not surprisingly, their wills collide when she marries Joseph Alston, a wealthy rice planter from South Carolina and moves far away from her New York home. However, bonds between father and daughter remain strong, eventually stretching Theodosia's loyalties painfully thin. She, her husband and the ever-enigmatic Burr pursued their often-divergent dreams against a backdrop of dramatic historical events. We were enchanted by the charm of the teenaged Theodosia plan-

ning formal dinners...intrigued by her involvement with politics...awed by the weight of her duties as mistress of a plantation, devoted mother and wife to a politically ambitious husband. We watch with horror a violent duel and feel the devastation of senseless death and ruined ambition. We share the exhilaration of a woman who knows she is the centerpiece of two men's lives...then pain when she realizes that one has exploited her...the joy that the other's unconditional love brings.

Repeatedly, the story juxtaposes the bustle of New York and the slow, seductive beauty of the South Carolina low country...the hopes of a woman determined to make her mark and reality of immutable circumstances. Spellbound, we are moved like quicksilver toward an unbelievably heart-rending conclusion. But, history demands our belief. The story is true.

Theodosia Burr Alston, a woman ahead of her time, adjusts to agonizing twists of fate and survives enormous difficulties with dignity and fortitude. She longs to be remembered and, ironically, she...and her mysterious final destiny...are indeed unforgettable.

In 1946 Rose Moore exhibited her pet Collie in the "Limit Class" at the Greenville Kennel Club All-Breed Show. After placing 3rd with her Collie in the "Limit Class," Rose entered the "Children's Handling Class" and won 2nd place. After all these years those awards are remembered as her most thrilling.

The little girl was hooked! Her family was not dog-oriented and certainly not interested in establishing a kennel for Rose. She had to settle for showing dogs for her friends. Back then there were classes for local dogs with groups for the same, so many more pets were exhibited.

Later Rose owned a Welsh Terrier that she showed quite a bit. He never went beyond Reserve in the regular classes, but in the local classes he went on to place in the local Terrier Group.

As city dwellers, the Moores never had enough space for Rose to own a large dog like her first love the Collie, so the clever young girl transferred her affection to the smaller breed of Shetland Sheepdogs.

While she was working as WCSC Radio in Charleston, South Carolina, Rose met and married Donald Tomlin. In the early sixties they lived for a few years in Greenville before taking up residence in New York for the next twenty-four years.

In 1964 when she moved into her own home, Rose purchased a blue merle Sheltie puppy from Beth Chappell of Faharaby Kennels in Ashville, North Carolina. Growing into Ch. Faharaby Blue Larkspur, C.D., the dog won first in the working group on the same day it became a champion.

Becky Elliott of Brae Carel Kennels sold Rose a female sable she also finished, Ch. Rosmoor Brae Carel Bonnie.

Tomlin considers the success of her



Left: James V. Robinson, the founding member of the Greenville Kennel Club and an internationally known all-breed judge gave this Welsh Terrier to Rose when she was 15 years old.

Below: Rose showing a friend's Manchester Terrier in April of 1953 and winning a major the dog's first time out.



breeding program to be the result of having these two lovely foundation animals.

After working in product publicity at the Manhattan firm of Young and Rubicam, the young bride returned to school at the college of New Rochelle. Following college, Rose worked in the mental health system in New York. Eventually Don opened his own investment firm and the couple fulfilled their dream of returning to South Carolina and living in Charleston.

Bill Thompson with The Post and Courier in Charleston, was so amazed with the correlation between the lives of Rose Moore Tomlin and Theodosia Burr Alston that he wrote, "Sometimes coincidence is so startling you have to wonder if fate has taken a hand. Tomlin's choice of subject matter for her screenplay may not have involved choice at all, but destiny.

"Alston was the centerpiece of the lives of two prominent men. She was the independently minded daughter of Aaron Burr, and the wife of wealthy South Carolina rice planter, Joseph Alston. But Alston was herself an accomplished and distinctive personality."

In a recent interview, Rose talked of Theodosia, "Hers was a story that had been in my head for so long that the writing of it just flowed," says Tomlin, for whom "Theodosia" was her first attempted screen play. "When my family and I moved here from New York in 1992, all of a sudden I felt very connected with Theodosia again.

"She spent a great deal of her life here on the peninsula, just three blocks away from where we live now. She also lived in New York. The first place I lived in New York the year after I was married was in Greenwich Village, and I didn't

know it at the time but it was on the grounds of the old Burr estate. The coincidences were spooky."

The Greenville native always had been impressed with the enormous task Alston, a teenager at the time of her marriage, set for herself. She was a mother, the wife of a politically ambitious husband, and charged with serving as mistress of his considerable estate.

Her loyalty to her father, third Vice-President of the United States, frequently was at odds with her devotion to her husband. "There have been three novels written about Theodosia, though nothing recent. But it didn't particularly appeal to me to do another scholarly biography.

"A friend got me intrigued about telling her story in screenplay form. That coincided with the first World Fest. I attended the screen writing seminar held that year and the idea began to build

momentum."

Tomlin bought several books on screenwriting, then poured over sample scripts provided by a friend and one-time literary agent.

"After reading them I felt I had the structure down," says Tomlin, who earned a Master's in psychiatric social work from New York University. "And I really enjoyed working in that structure.

It's very tight, and you can't take liberties with it. Maybe taking to it so readily came out of my background writing commercials for the radio and TV.

"I found after I began that it came naturally to me. A lot of the dialogue in it was paraphrased from correspondence that I read, which came through so naturally as dialogue. I think the hardest part for me was fighting the computer. I'm

not very computer literate. Of course, I'm much more so now than when I began."

Tomlin had submitted her screenplay widely, reasoning that if it was sufficiently polished to win an award, it must be in fairly marketable shape. Not that she is averse to revision. She expects it.

"I just feel that it's a story that someone is going to believe in. It's meant a lot



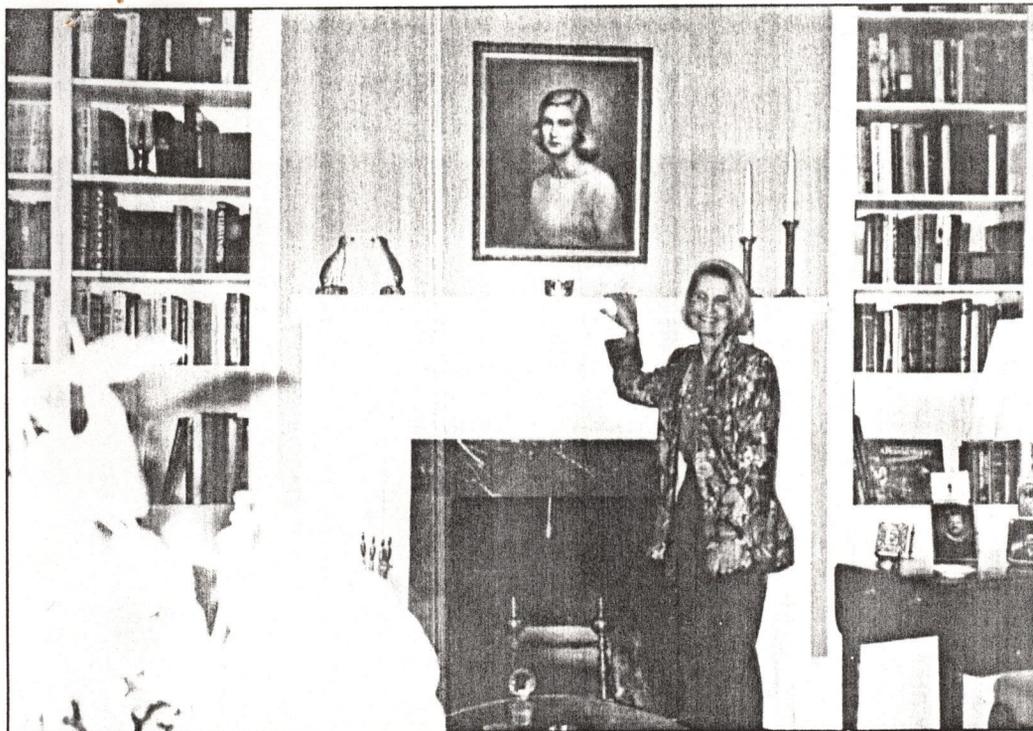
Top left: Jennie and Rose with Greenville dog fanciers Louis & Anne LeBlanc at a party honoring Roy Ayers at the Knorr home.

Top right: Christmas shopping in "Theodosia" Country - Georgetown, South Carolina, with two of "Rosmoors" retired champion Shelties.

Bottom left: Jennie Tomlin Hynes asked her mother, good friend and kennel partner, to be Matron of Honor in her August '93 wedding.

Bottom right: Don holds the Tomlin's first grandchild, Sarah Rose Hynes, born 9/18/95. Rose beams at her namesake.





History enthralls Rose Tomlin, shown here in her 1840 home in downtown Charleston, South Carolina.

to me to put it down the way I wanted it and to get it out there. **The best of all possible worlds is if someone buys it and keeps me on as the writer.** That would be perfection, but I don't harbor any illusions about it."

Tomlin would prefer feature film treatment but believes the story also would be suited to the telefilm or documentary format. "It might even be done for the stage, but that would entail a whole lot of surgery."

Political unrest is everywhere - how are we planning to vote for the President of the United States of America or the Board of Directors of our American Kennel Club. In other words it is time to make critical judgment decisions about the leadership of...our country and our dog world.

Theodosia's father, Aaron Burr became an important political figure after fighting in the American Revolution when he became Vice-President of our country. But he was best remembered for having killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel.

It is interesting to note that Vice-President Burr's father was the president of the college of New Jersey which we know as **Princeton**.

The young Burr's political career began in 1789 when **Governor George Clinton** appointed him to the post of Attorney General of New York. Today we have another former **Governor Clinton** running our country. He's certainly got my vote for the "best looking" of all candidates because he has fabulous hair, like my Jim's. But this election is not a dog world event where looks are of greatest importance.

History books tell us that in 1796 and 1800, Burr ran for Vice-President with

Thomas Jefferson on the Democratic-Republican ticket. Whatever doubts Virginia Republicans had about Burr - they had not voted for him in 1796 - were put to rest when he carried New York City for his party in 1800. It was assumed that the outcome of the national election would follow that in New York, but under the confused electoral system then in use, Jefferson and Burr received an equal number of electoral votes for the presidency (73 each), throwing the election into the House of Representatives. There the Federalists refused to heed the advice of Hamilton and unsuccessfully tried, against the obvious wishes of the public, to elect Burr. Jefferson won the contest and Burr became Vice-President. Jefferson doubted his loyalty and soon began to withhold patronage from Burr and his followers. Although still a Republican, Burr began to cultivate federalists; his strategy was to unite dissidents against the Virginia party of Jefferson and James Madison.

Frustrated by Jefferson's national popularity, and dropped from the Republican ticket for 1804, Burr entered the 1804 Gubernatorial race in New York. Some northern Federalists who were plotting secession called on Burr to support them, but his response was masterfully enigmatic. An old enemy, Alexander Hamilton, did everything he could to defeat Burr. Some of Hamilton's derogatory comments, personal in nature, appeared in print, and Burr, who lost the election, demanded a retraction, which Hamilton refused to make. The duel that followed at Weehawken, New Jersey, on July 11, 1804, resulted in Hamilton's death. Charged with murder, Burr fled to Philadelphia to escape arrest.

Hide the swords - we cannot allow either of our upcoming elections to come to this.

Rose and Don Tomlin have raised two beautiful children, Reid, and Jennie. Their Rosmoor Kennels has bred over thirty champion Shelties since 1966 from a facility that never kept more than six shelties at a time.

They are proud of their thirty-one year old son, Reid, who is married and is in the municipal bond business in Larchmont, New York.

Their daughter, Jennie, became interested in the dog show game at a very early age. She obtained a C.D. on one of the Rosmoor Shelties before she was old enough to be eligible for Junior Showmanship. Jennie is now Mrs. Kevin Hynes and in 1995 she presented Don and Rose with their first Grandchild, Sarah Rose.

From her home in Connecticut, Jennie is carrying on the Rosmoor breeding program that her mother could only dream about as a child. Now residing in downtown Charleston in an 1840 historical home, the Tomlins two retired champions are entertained all day by the clop-clop of horses pulling carriages for tourists in this fabulous historic district.

Charleston seems to be the perfect place for the dog world's award winning screenplay writer, Rose Moore Tomlin. Both are filled with charm and history.

Who among you ShowSight readers can bring "Theodosia" to life? Congratulations Rose!

Linda Ayres Turner Knorr