

# COMEDY'S EASY, DYING IS HARD

By Anthony Dodge

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*Inspired by the feature article "A Life Worth Ending" by Michael Wolff  
Published in New York Magazine, May 20, 2012*

## SYNOPSIS

**A successful journalist in his fifties, a man who took on Rupert Murdoch, is faced with an adversary like no other: The Medical Profession. When his mother retreats into the last stages of dementia, the writer is thrown into the crazy medical carousel. Is he really trying to save his mother or to kill her?**

**A black comedy.**

## Development

- **Invitation-only reading, January, 2014** presented by Susan Dietz (Fela) and Liz Carlson (Naked Angels) in NYC. Jason Alexander led the cast, which featured Joyce Van Patten, Maddie Corman, Teddy Bergman, Rachel De Benedet, Lora Lee Gayer, John Jellison and Bryce Ryness.
- **Finalist, 2014 National Playwrights Festival**
- **Sundance's Philip Himberg's response to the play:**  
*"...the writing is very strong. The author has real command of his subject, his characters, structure. It is sometimes funny, very authentic, and goes to heart of what so many of us fear around our own mortality, morbidity. That's where its strength lies, I think – our visceral imagining of dealing with this, either our own elderly loved ones - or ourselves. . . but I don't feel this is a Sundance piece – not because of its quality but mostly because it's far enough along that futzing with it at the lab is not viable. They should adapt and re-write based on audience response."*
- **Agent:**  
Michael Moore Agency  
450 West 24th Street, Suite 1C  
New York, NY 10011  
+1 212 221 0400 Tel  
+1 212 881 9492 Fax  
Michael@michaelmooreagency.com  
www.michaelmooreagency.com