

BIGFOOT AND MARTY ...





Chasing Bigfoot:

The Mythology and Truth of Being a Poet / Writer



MYTHS ABOUT WRITING

- Writing is magic.
- Writing is an innate talent
- Good writing has to be “serious”
- Writers have to suffer for their art
- Writers write for themselves
- Writing is a solitary act
- Writers should only write when they’re inspired
- To be successful, writers need to publish traditionally
- Writers need to follow set writing schedules to be successful



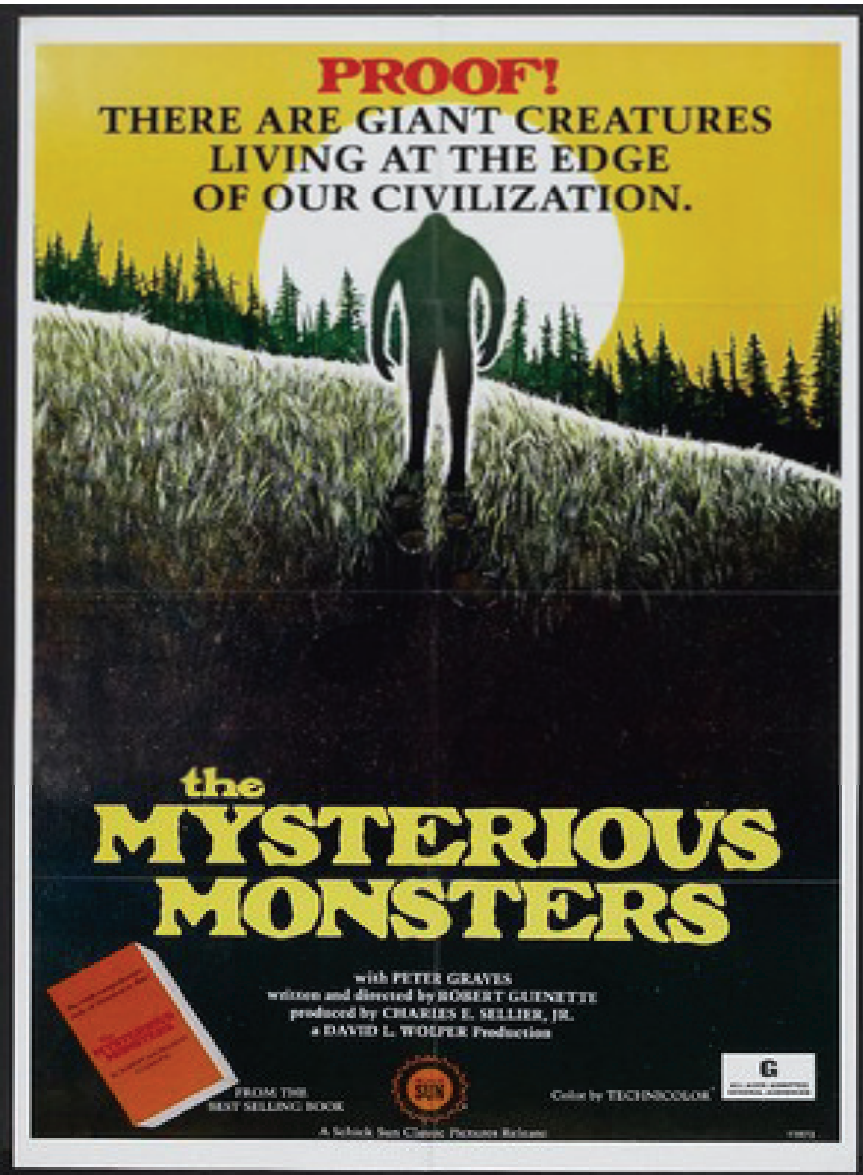


MYTHS ABOUT POETRY

- Poetry is magic
- Poetry needs to be complex and difficult to in order to be good
- Poetry is not for everyone
- Poetry can't be funny
- Poetry has to rhyme
- Poetry doesn't need to follow grammatical rules
- Poetry needs to be written in elevated language
- Poetry is for academics



How it all
began . . .





CHILDHOOD

- Born in Detroit
- Family moved to Upper Peninsula when I was very young
- Father, brothers, and sister were/are all licensed Master Plumbers
- Plumber's son
- Spent summers working as plumber's apprentice
- Chasing mystery
- Turning point





DREAMS

From my journal when I was 14:

By the time I'm 30, I will

1. *Have published 5 bestselling books*
2. *Win the Pulitzer Prize*
3. *Become the youngest winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature*
4. *Be best friends with Steven Spielberg*



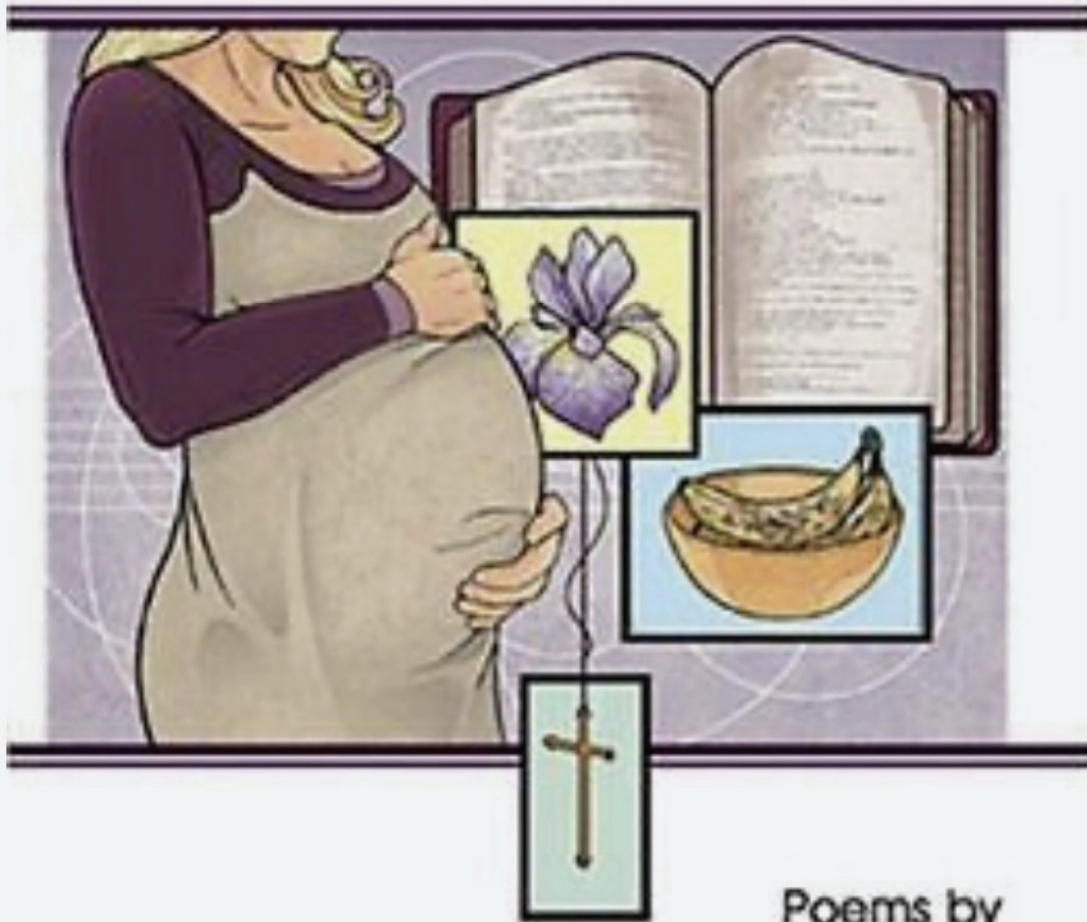


EDUCATION

- High School
- College
- Computer Science/Math
- English
- Master's in Fiction Writing
- The Dark Side
- Western Michigan University
- Book World
- MFA in Poetry



The Mysteries of the Rosary



Poems by
Martin Achatz

MYSTERIES

- MFA Thesis
- Catholicism
- Pope John Paul II
- Mysteries of the Rosary
- Networking
- Judith Kerman, Mayapple Press
- Publication process
- Negative Capability





IN THE GARDEN

A poem ...





OBSESSIONS

- Next book
 - *Weekly World News*
 - "Lady Bigfoot Kept Him in Her Cave"
 - Hard at work:
 - "Rosebush Drips Human Blood"
 - "Lost Baby Crawls 5 Miles to Get Home"
 - "Penis Reduction Surgery Is New Medical Fad"
- And then . . .



DISASTER . . .

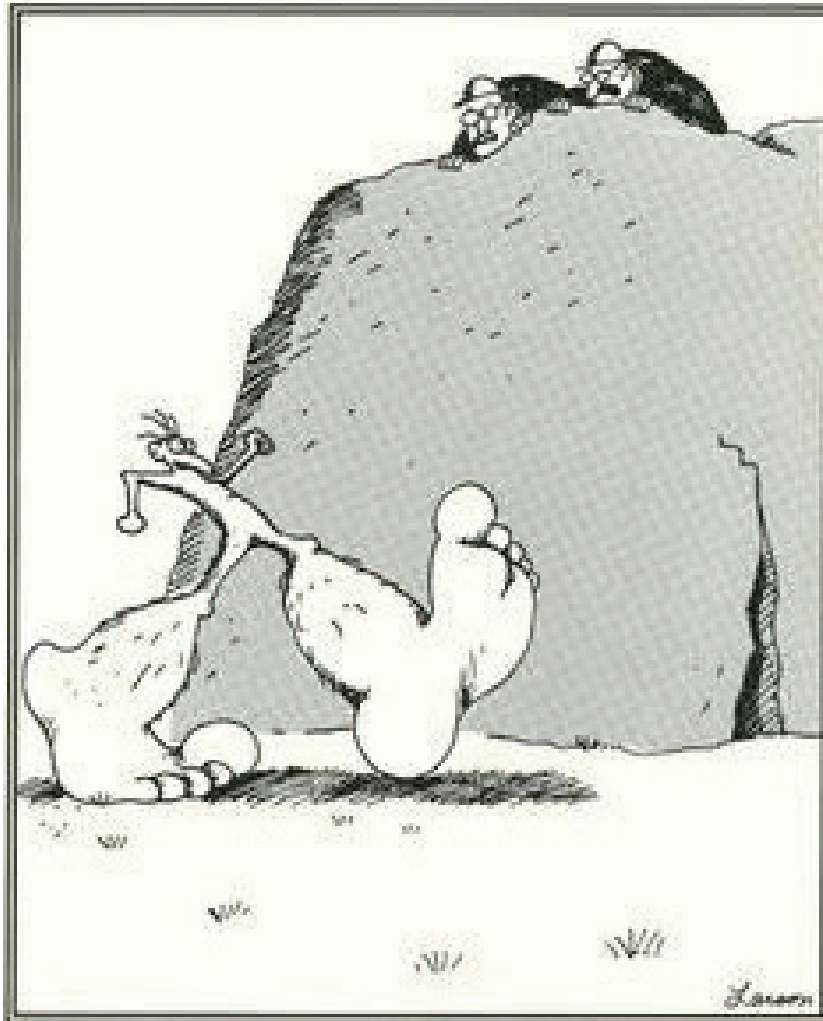




LADY BIGFOOT KEPT HIM IN HER CAVE

An anniversary poem . . .





"It certainly has taken the romance out of the Bigfoot mystery."

OBSESSIONS DON'T DIE . . .

- Kept teaching
- ...and writing
- ...and publishing poems
- **Work, nominations, and honors**
- Poetry Editor, *Passages North*
- Pushcart Prize nominations
- U.P. Poet Laureate nominations

- **BIGFOOT kept coming back . . .**





THE BIGFOOT POET

- Popular culture
- Bigfoot as a metaphor
- An entry point
- Using the ridiculous to get serious
- Seeing past Bigfoot: difficulty with editors and publishers





THIRTEEN WAYS OF LOOKING AT BIGFOOT

A breakthrough poem for me . . .





U.P. POET LAUREATE

- Dreams
- Mysteries
- Obsessions
- Obligations:
 1. Voice of Poetry
 2. School Visits
 3. Publication Opportunities
 4. Projects
 5. The Marquette Poets Circle
 6. The Red Jacket Jamboree
 7. Peter White Public Library





Bigfoot and Marty
an experimental documentary
by Ronnie Ferguson

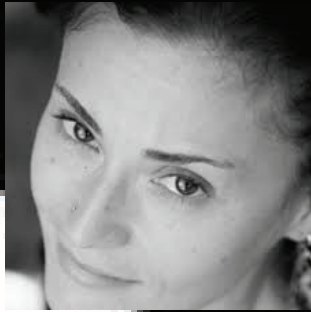
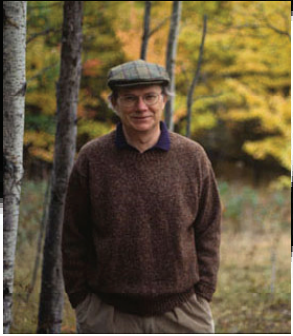
Featuring poetry by two-time U.P. Poet Laureate
Marty Azzala, music by STREAKING IN TONGUES,
stories by Bigfoot experts, professional mystery hunters,
and more.

Monday, April 25 at 6PM
in the Shiras Room (upstairs)
at Peter White Public Library
FREE ADMISSION

COLLABORATIONS & PROJECTS

- Bigfoot has opened doors, as well
- Ronnie Ferguson & Streaking in Tongues
- *Slow Dancing with Bigfoot*
- *Christmas with Bigfoot*
- *Bigfoot and Marty*
- Coming soon . . . *Jazzing with Bigfoot*
- The Great Lakes Poetry Festival





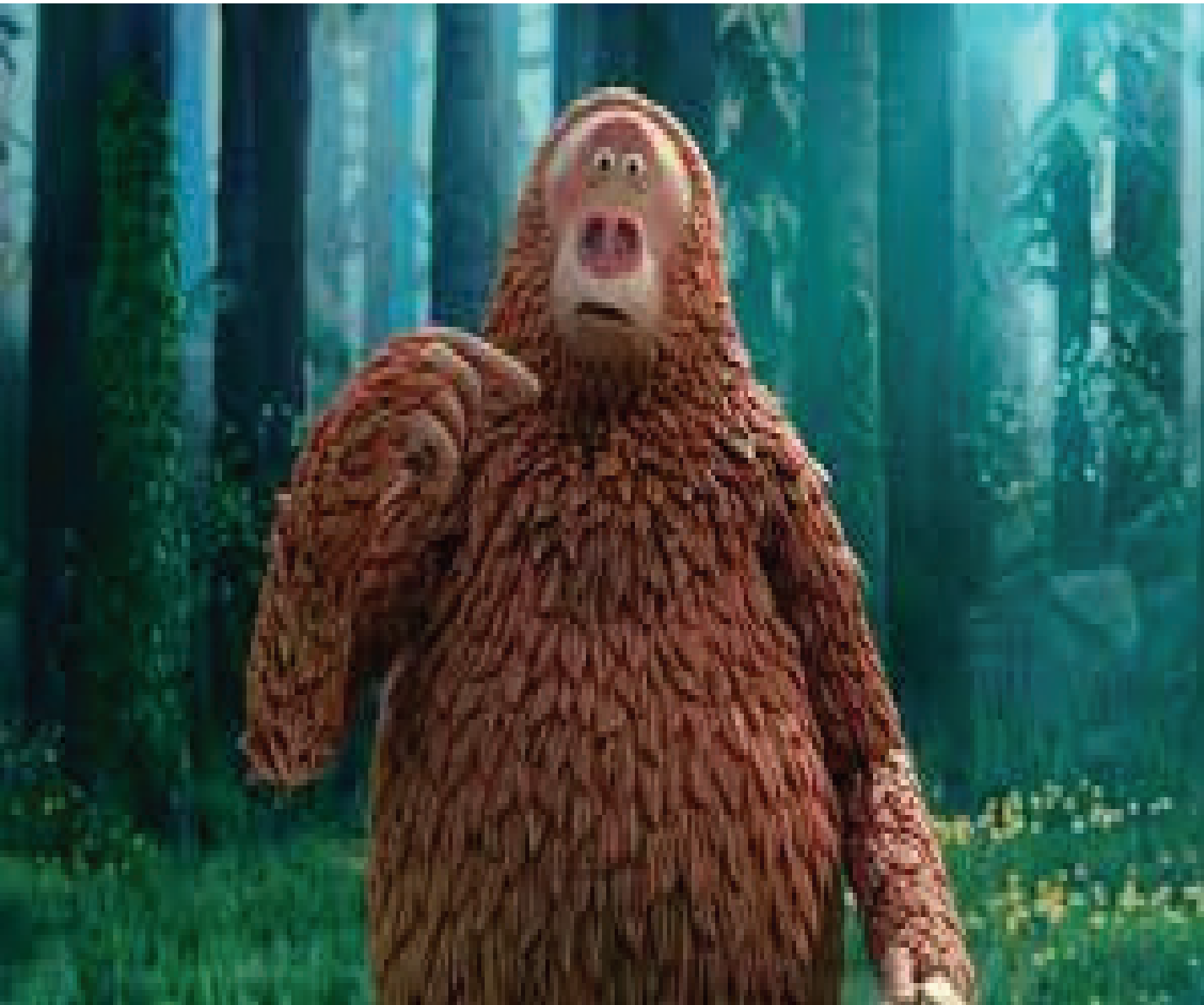
U.P.P.L.F.



U.P. POET LAUREATE FOUNDATION

- Non-profit
- Selection of U.P. Poets Laureate (every two years)
- Promote poetry and poetry events throughout the region
- Currently serving as Vice President of the organization





WHAT ABOUT THE BIG GUY???

Upcoming projects:

- At least one more spoken-word album
- *Big and Marty* in film festivals and in negotiation with streaming services for national distribution (Independent Spirit Award from Midwest Weirdfest; Honourable Mention in Brighton Rocks International Film Festival in UK; Official Selection for Student World Impact Film Festival)
- Scored/played soundtrack for film currently in production
- Collection of Bigfoot poems
- New mysteries to chase ...





QUESTIONS

All cryptids are welcome to ask questions . . .

