

arts + leisure

What better place to appreciate Hemingway's penchant for fishing than aboard a riverboat? American Shorts has been known to make such things happen, offering readings of American short fiction at a different, theme-appropriate location each month.

This season, AS reading nights have the added bonus of being based on Pittsburgh's arts: "Every installment this season features someone or an organization or a band that we think are extraordinary artists in Pittsburgh," says series director Suzanne Pace, who took her cues from New York's nationally syndicated Selected Shorts series when she started AS in 2003.

To make it Pittsburgh's own, Pace cut out the New York price and added film screenings and performing-arts acts ranging from gospel music to puppet shows—plus free munchies and libations to boot. The result? Just about the most fun you can have for \$4. For information about American Shorts, see page 20.

Look within these pages for hundreds of arts + leisure options, now more complete and user-friendly than ever. —**Elaine Vitone**

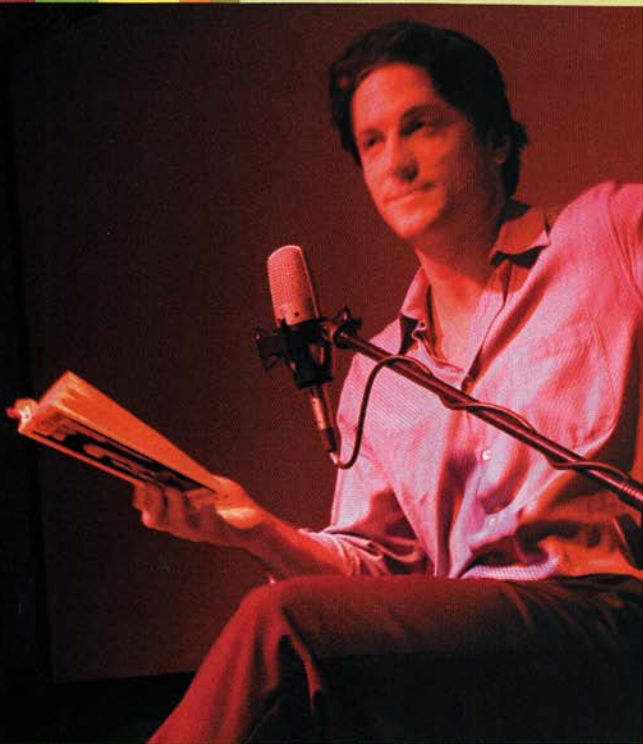


Photo courtesy American Shorts