



Jo Ann Robinson in

Eudora Welty's Short Story

WHY I LIVE AT THE P.O.

November 10-17, 2020

Originally Directed by Denise Halbach
Original Set Design by Richard Lawrence
Additional Set Design by Dex Edwards
Sound Engineer Alberto Meza
Light Design by Bronwyn Teague
Filmed by Mosaic Media

The event is performed with special permission from Eudora Welty LLC
and in partnership with the Eudora Welty Foundation

Scene

Post Office in China Grove, Miss.

JO ANN ROBINSON

Robinson has worked professionally for more than 35 years in television, film, and regional theatres across the U.S. From 1978-1989, she was based out of Los Angeles where credits included co-starring roles in *The New Love American Style* and the nationally syndicated *Comedy of Comedies*. Some show credits include *Pipeline*, *Sweat*, *Morningside*, *Silent Sky*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *A Time to Kill*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Lombardi*, *First Baptist of Ivy Gap*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *Idols of the King*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Marvin's Room*, *Grace & Glorie*, *Misery*, and *Rumors*. Other regional theatre credits include *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Angels in America I and II*, *Lips Together*, *Teeth Apart*, and *Always Patsy Cline*. Robinson has most recently had featured roles on *NCIS New Orleans* and the feature film, *Shapeless*. Robinson was nominated for Best Actress for the prestigious B. Iden Award given by the Austin, Texas Critics Circle.

EUDORA WELTY

Born in 1909 in Jackson, Mississippi, Eudora Welty was nurtured by loving parents and grew up with two younger brothers. She attended Davis (now Barack Obama) Elementary School and graduated from Central High School. After college at Mississippi State College for Women and the University of Wisconsin, she attended Columbia University School of Business in New York City, relishing theatre, music, art, and the literary life. In the late 1920s, she began to take photographs. She held her first photo exhibit in New York in 1936, shortly before her first short story was published. Her first book, *A Curtain of Green*, was published in 1941, containing 17 wide-ranging stories, including "Why I Live at the P. O." Throughout her long career, she produced short stories, essays, novels, a memoir, and a book of photographs. Films, theatrical, and musical productions, including for Broadway, were based on her work. Welty was active in the life of New Stage Theatre, which produced many dramatizations of her work. Among the most honored of the nation's authors, she received the Pulitzer Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the French Legion of Honor. She was the first living writer to be published in the *Library of America* series. Welty died in 2001 and is buried in Jackson. The Welty House and Garden, a National Historic Landmark and a museum of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, is fully furnished with her belongings. Open for tours, there is a visitor center with exhibits next door. For more information, visit <http://www.eudorawelty.org> and <https://welty.mdah.ms.gov>.