



Dr. Samuel Shem

Samuel Shem, pen name of Dr. Stephen Bergman, is a psychiatrist, an acclaimed novelist, playwright, essayist, and activist. Dr. Shem is described as “Easily the finest and most important writer ever to focus on the lives of doctors and the world of medicine” (Bulletin of the Harvard Club of NYC). As a graduate of Harvard Medical School, a Rhodes scholar, a practicing physician for four decades, and a faculty member for 25 years, Shem is an expert on medicine, psychiatry, neuroscience, the treatment of alcoholics and other addicts.

Shem is also a well-known, inspirational speaker on the importance of human as the centrality of good connection in life and work. He has spoken all over the world—including commencement speeches at more than 50 medical schools—using his writing and experience in medicine to inspire and instruct his audience in “Staying Human in Health Care and Life.”

His novels, *The House of God*, *Fine* and *Mount Misery* have sold over 3 million copies and are fictional but close-to-real first-hand descriptions of the training of American doctors. He is noted all over the world by health care professionals for *The House of God* and has been referred to as “the comic genius and the holy terror of medicine,” “Rabelaisian,” and “the raucous and insightful physician of the soul.” Shem was most formerly a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, division of addictions.

Shem's play *Bill W. and Dr. Bob* had an Off Broadway run at New World Stage in New York City. It ran for 132 performances and closed on June 10, 2007. *The New York Times* called it “An insightful new play.” He has published a noted essay, “Fiction as Resistance” (*Annals of Internal Medicine* 2002). Shem has been honored as one of Boston Public Library’s “Literary Lights,” as one of “Boston’s Best Authors,” and as a speaker at the Hemingway Centennial Celebration at the JFK Library. He has received the Vanderbilt University Medal of Merit.

Currently, Shem is a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, division of addictions. Shem was a Rhodes Scholar at Balliol College, Oxford in 1966. He is a founding Venture Partner and Human Resources manager in one of the largest biotechnology venture capital companies in the world, MPM Capital, where he has worked for ten years.