

**YALE PRESS AUTHOR & AUTHORITY ON CONVERSATION  
STEPHEN MILLER  
TO ADVISE BUMPSPARK\* PROJECT**

**"There is a hunger for some new form of contact."**

**New York, NY** - This morning, Headless Film Producer Robert Kalm added another important voice to the board of advisors for his Bumpspark\* Project. A pilot series for television and the internet, *Bumpspark\** is a non-profit endeavor to arrange free-form conversations between leaders from differing fields of knowledge, record them and distribute them to the public.

"Last month, a good friend to this project handed me a copy of *Conversation: A History of a Declining Art*," recalled Mr. Kalm. "Not halfway through the preface, while trying to comprehend how I overlooked the book in my research, I realized this foremost authority on conversation of the past and of the present had to be on our team. And now Stephen Miller is part of our team."

Miller is a freelance writer whose latest book, *Conversation: A History of a Declining Art*, was published by Yale University Press in 2006. His essays and reviews have appeared in many magazines, including *Partisan Review*, *Sewanee Review*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and *The American Scholar*. He has worked for the National Endowment for the Humanities and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. He has also been a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. He has an M.A. from Yale in English and a Ph.D. from Rutgers in comparative literature.

"In the beginning I was surprised by the growing attention that what I thought was a little book about my own preoccupation was getting, but it has become obvious to me that there is a real hunger out there for some new form of contact," said Mr. Miller. "*Bumpspark\** is an experiment worth the effort."

Poised to turn the talk show format on its couch pillows, *Bumpspark\**'s captivating, expansive dialogues are shot by documentary photographers, on location, at secluded environments familiar to the participants. A day or two's worth of ruminations is edited down into rich hour-long episodes.

The pilot effort of the project is a discussion between former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky and MIT physicist and author Alan Lightman to be held and recorded in the city of Boston this fall.

"Things are snowballing. We'll be opening the new website next week, the pilot production is moving, and in addition to many planned announcements, I'm sure we'll have a few nice surprises like this one."

The Bumpspark\* Project Digital Press Kit is available by contacting [headlessfilm@gmail.com](mailto:headlessfilm@gmail.com). Tax deductible contributions can be made to The Bumpspark\* Project by contacting Robert Kalm directly.

Robert Kalm  
hEADLESS FILM  
917.676.2737  
[headlessfilm@gmail.com](mailto:headlessfilm@gmail.com)  
[www.bumpspark.org](http://www.bumpspark.org)

Stephen Miller  
1465 Greenmont Court  
Reston, VA 20190  
[millerste@verizon.net](mailto:millerste@verizon.net)

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hEADLESS FILM - 19 Kathleen Road - Huntington, Connecticut 06484-5120  
+1.917.676.2737 - [headlessfilm@gmail.com](mailto:headlessfilm@gmail.com) - [www.headlessfilm.com](http://www.headlessfilm.com)

