



**OLLI South
Facilitator**



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See Greg at work



"Moody Finally Gets to See Frozen"

CBS Denver - KCNC

With culture, humor, and heart: Greg reviews the world

Greg Moody grew up in a town called Plainwell, Michigan. That's about the only thing "plain" about this colorful man's life.

With his smartly coiffed, wavy gray hair, classic goatee, brow line eyeglasses, colorfully banded Apple watch, and dressed in a crisply ironed white shirt combined with a perfectly matched argyle sweater vest, Greg sat down for lunch recently.

His Dad was an assistant school superintendent; Mom, a first-grade-teacher. Greg was the third of four siblings, two boys and two girls.

"I wanted to create my own persona to prove to my family and the world that I was not my father or my brother," he reflects. "I was Greg and I stood apart. It was that way with the writing and reporting and everything else I did."

Greg's approach to his life-long work as an actor, radio and TV personality, author of five books and now, OLLI class facilitator was consistent: "Come along with me, and we're going to have a good time."

Legions of listeners, viewers, readers and now class participants have been doing just that.

Launching his career

Greg's nonlinear career path is a definition of Greg: Adaptable. Dynamic. Transformative. Energetic.

At Western Michigan University Greg did theater and film work. Through a college buddy he ended up playing the comic role in a Southern touring company's production of "Godspell." New York City then beckoned, where supporting himself by house painting, he performed as a stand-up comic.

He returned to Michigan and offered to work without pay to get a start at a tiny Grand Rapids news-information radio station. It was there he found his first love: arts and culture criticism. Lessons were to be learned as when his review of a community group's "dull" production of "South Pacific" included the line, "The Japanese should have invaded the island." The critic was roundly criticized. Over time his criticism blended

10 OLLI Classes starting Spring 2024

- **WWII Journalist Ernie Pyle**
- **Comedians Laurel and Hardy**
- **Entertainment History**
- **Wasteland: How WWI created the Modern Horror Movie**
- **Charlie Chaplin**
- **The History of WWII**
- **The Nazi Resistance Movement**
- **Great Naval Victories**
- **Amazing Stories: The Fantastic Humanity of Ray Bradbury**
- **Halsey's Folly** (Winter 2026)



humor and enthusiasm, often focusing his wit on himself as a master of self-deprecation, knowing that biting sarcasm lines could be clever but not helpful.

He landed a job at a larger NBC news-information outlet in Milwaukee. Ever on the lookout for something new he learned that the Milwaukee Sentinel morning newspaper was looking for a TV and Film columnist. He walked boldly into the editor's office and applied.

"You don't have any newspaper experience," he was told.

Greg left, found the office of a suburban "shopper" newspaper and told the guy in charge, "I'll give you five movie reviews for free if you print them in your newspaper." A week later he was in the Sentinel editor's office again, clips of his published work in hand. He got the job.

That led to a variety of production and on-air jobs at the city's CBS affiliate. When a station

producer took a position at Denver's 9News, he convinced Greg to follow him.

Discovering Denver, his niche

His timing was perfect. He came to town as Denver was morphing from cow town to a vibrant cultural arts city. For thirty-three years, first at Channel 9, then at Channel 4, Greg covered Denver's cultural growth, exploding onto the camera with the enthusiasm and joy of a carnival barker. He blended arts reporting with delightful Colorado stories about people who, like Greg, lived life full. He earned 15 regional Emmy awards along the way.

There's more: Service as a public affairs officer for eight years in the U.S. Naval Reserve. Writing five books, about such things as murder mystery related to bicycling (the latter an interest of his), about an Army nurse; about lessons learned by an old man wandering through life.

Lately, there is OLLI. After retiring from broadcasting when Covid hit, Greg was looking for something to do and signed up for an OLLI class. He fell in love with all things OLLI and was persuaded by South coordinators Darcey VanWagner and Sherilee Selby to become a facilitator.

His first of ten classes was a study of silent film comedians. A favorite was a recently led class about the Germans who stood against Hitler during the rise of the Third Reich, a class he intends to do again.

"There are lessons related to our political climate today," he notes.

Why facilitate? "Why not? If you are interested in life, what you have seen, places you've been, history, economics, travel, anything. OLLI wants you. You get personal validation. You earn appreciation of class participants."

"You find the gold and it is OLLI."

Greg still has fond memories and fun tales about growing up in Plain Well, MI, a town whose name belies the actual life and work of this remarkably entertaining OLLI facilitator.

Dennis Ryerson • Writer; Sheila Jones • Designer