



"A Turnpike Sunset" is a historical fiction play by Tom Godleski that tells the story of 19th-century drovers on the Buncombe Turnpike, a crucial road for the economy of Asheville and the surrounding areas. The Turnpike ran along the French Broad River through Madison County and connected the farms of Northeast Tennessee to markets on the South Carolina Coast. The play is set around a campfire, with characters sharing stories, singing, and talking about life on the road. It incorporates both stories from the era and family stories of Tom Godleski. The music in the show is performed by members of the Asheville bluegrass group Buncombe Turnpike, using authentic instruments from the time period.

The play has been staged at various locations, including the Folk Art Center in Asheville and the Black Mountain Center for the Arts. It is known for its authentic Appalachian setting and stories, featuring characters like drovers, musicians, and their families. "A Turnpike Sunset" is a blend of history, humor, music, and family tales, offering a glimpse into the past and celebrating the culture of the region.