

Charles Sweetman

My poems in the *ND Review* come from a larger project that features dramatic monologues spoken to the camera of independent film director Roman Gibbs as well as other poems about Gibbs himself as he shoots his documentary *Late Bloomers*. Gibbs, his film, and the speakers are inventions. The late bloomers help me explore issues like definitions of success, legacy, mortality, and a sense of purpose—how one might find it, renew it, and sustain it at any age.

I seem to work best writing poems within a narrative framework, which, for me, serves as a jazz arrangement within which to improvise and tell stories. My first collection of poems, *Enterprise, Inc.*, took for its fictional setting a corporation (Enterprise) and explored the lives of accountants who work there. Its first person speaker plays a role we've seen before in literature from at least as early as Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, a narrator who serves as a conduit for the tales of a wide variety of fellow travelers.