

from the FOOTLIGHTS

DECEMBER 2008

"Life shouldn't be all work and no plays."

<http://www.footlightsdc.org>

David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross*

Footlights meets on Tuesday, December 9 to discuss *Glengarry Glen Ross* – David Mamet's 1984 Pulitzer Prize winning masterpiece. Infused with his trademark rhythms and language, *Glengarry Glen Ross* explores the cutthroat world of selling and its ruthless inhabitants. Mamet pits five desperate real estate salesmen, prepared to engage in any number of unethical, illegal acts—from lies and flattery to bribery, threats, intimidation, and burglary—to sell undesirable real estate to unwilling prospective buyers in a ferocious battle for their lives as they ricochet from the exhilaration of success to the degradation of failure. The play draws partly on Mamet's experiences of life in a Chicago real estate office, where he worked briefly in the late 1960s.

Our guests will be **Mark Rhea**, Artistic Director of Keegan Theatre, who will be appearing in Keegan's production of *Glengarry Glen Ross*, and other cast members.

We meet at a new location on Tuesday, December 9, 6:30 p.m. at **Ireland's Four Courts**, 2051 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201 (703-525-3600). Directions by Metro: Take orange line to Courthouse Stop (towards Vienna); take the Strayer University/Clarendon Blvd. exit from Metro and you will find the Four Courts on the right side across the street. There is limited parking behind the restaurant and on the street. Five menu choices are available for us at \$15, including tax and tip. We suggest an additional donation of \$5 to Footlights.

To reserve a place, contact Mark Gruenberg, at press_associates@yahoo.com or 202-898-4825. Please arrive at Ireland's Four Courts by 6:30 p.m. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. and ends at 9-9:30 p.m. You may come at 7:30 for the discussion only, if you wish, but do reserve with Mark.

Note: If you must cancel your dinner reservation, please let Mark know by noon on Tuesday, December 9, so we have an accurate count of reservations.

See *Glengarry Glen Ross*

We will see Keegan Theatre's *Glengarry Glen Ross* on Sunday, December 14, 3 p.m. at the Church Street Theater, 1742 Church St., NW, Washington, DC 20036. Tickets are \$20. Bring your check, payable to Footlights, to the dinner-discussion or send to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, #L07, Rockville, MD 20852.

In January: Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard, a Comedy in Four Acts*

Has anyone besides Chekhov described this play, done by some of the leading actors and directors around the world since it opened in 1904, as a comedy? It is "not a drama but a comedy, in places almost a farce," Chekhov said.

Yes, a search of the Internet finds reviews of a few productions that tried to induce the comedy as well as the drama in this play rich with characterizations of social class, of dreamers, of practical people, of aristocrats, of self-made men, of ineffectual lovers. I even saw several years ago here in Washington a version that advertised itself as being slapstick. I recall laughing at times. I do not recall when it was played, who were the actors, what company put it on at which theater. Not exactly an indelible impression was left on me.

Peter Brooks, one of the most innovative and famous directors of the last several decades, staged the play in a semi-restored theater in Brooklyn, NY with no scenery to critical acclaim in 1988. Frank Rich, the New York Times critic, said Mr. Brooks banished "all forms of theatrical realism except the only one that really matters— emotional truth." This gives us one more reason to see the production that the Washington Shakespeare Company will put on at the end of January because it has never had the money for elaborate costumes and scenery. It has concentrated on the language, the skill of actors and the interpretations of directors to drive the classics that we have seen over the years—*Equus*, *Royal Hunt of the Sun*, *Marat/Sade* to mention a few that we have discussed and seen.

Christopher Henley, the company's artistic director, has often been our guest speaker and he will be again because he will be directing this production. It may be the last production his company does at the Clark Street Playhouse in Arlington. We need to ask whether he is still planning a Sledgehammer Ball. He will discuss the play with us Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Alfio's.

We will see the play at a matinee Sunday, February 8.

– Jerry Stilkind

See *Dublin Carol*

There is still time to join Footlights for this performance! On Sunday, December 7, at 2 p.m. we will see *Dublin Carol*—our November play for discussion—at Quotidian Theatre. Performances are held in the comfortable, small

theater space inside the Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda MD 20815. There is free weekend parking in the public lot off Walsh St. By Metro, it is a 10 minute walk from the Bethesda Red Line stop.

Tickets for Footlights are \$10. Send your check, payable to Footlights, to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, Apt. L07, Rockville, MD 20852.

We will meet for a Chinese lunch at the Moongate, 4611 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815 (301- 657-3740) at noon. Separate checks. See location on the map, two blocks from the theater. Please let me know if you will be joining our group at the Moongate, robinlarkin@comcast.net or 240-669-6300.



Calendar

- Sunday, December 7, 2 p.m., performance of *Dublin Carol* at Quotidian Theatre, The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda MD 20815. Tickets are \$10. Send your check, payable to Footlights, to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, #L07, Rockville, MD 20852. To contact Robin: robinlarkin@comcast.net or 240-669-6300.
- Tuesday, December 9, 6:30 p.m., dinner-discussion of David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross* at Ireland's Four Courts, 2051 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201 (703-525-3600). Dinner: \$15, includes tax and tip. Suggested donation to Footlights: \$5. Reserve with Mark at press_associates@yahoo.com or 202-898-4825.
- Sunday, December 14, 3 p.m., performance of *Glengarry Glen Ross* at Keegan Theatre, Church St. Theater, 1742 Church St., NW, Washington, DC 20036. Tickets are \$20. Send your check, payable to Footlights, to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, #L07, Rockville, MD 20852.
- Tuesday, January 27, 6:30 p.m., dinner-discussion of Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* with Christopher Henley, Washington Shakespeare Company. At Alfio's, 4515 Willard Ave., Chevy Chase, MD (301-657-9133).
- Sunday, February 8, 2 p.m., performance of *The Cherry Orchard* at Washington Shakespeare Company, Clark Street Playhouse, 601 S. Clark Street Arlington VA 22202 (703-418-4808).

Robin Larkin for FOOTLIGHTS
5800 Nicholson Lane, Apt. L07
Rockville, MD 20852