

from the FOOTLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 2010

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

<http://www.footlightsdc.org>

Footlights to Discuss David Ireland's *Everything Between Us* on February 23

It is the first day of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Belfast and one member receives a visit from a long lost sister who roars in, flaming like a meteor. Both have moved somewhat down the road to healing from the violence of the Troubles, but neither past nor present culture, Christianity nor Paganism, is giving them the support they need. They talk and look into the old wounds, but are unsure how to proceed. Unlike in Conor McPherson's *Shining City*, the ghosts do not make an appearance, but they are invoked.

It is hopeful that they are at last talking, but they are far from arriving at reconciliation. The situation makes for powerful theatre.

DC's Solas Nua is collaborating with Belfast's Tinderbox Theatre Company to produce David Ireland's new play. Kathleen Akerley is directing. Rehearsals are underway in Belfast. *Everything Between Us* will tour the U.S. in Philadelphia and Buffalo before playing in DC March 23-28.

Linda Murray, artistic director of Solas Nua, will be our guest speaker. Solas Nua is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization that seeks out both feted and obscure work by contemporary artists in Ireland to promote awareness of modern Irish culture. Footlights last met with Linda in November 2007 for our discussion of *Shining City*. She is a native of Dublin, and holds degrees in languages, drama and theatre studies and will shortly receive a Ph.D. in dance studies from London Metropolitan University.

We'll meet at **Alfio's** on **Tuesday, February 23**. Alfio's is located on the ground floor of the Willoughby Apartments, 4515 Willard Ave., Chevy Chase, MD, 20815 (phone: 301-657-9133) – two blocks from the Friendship Heights Metro. Street parking is limited but valet parking is free at Alfio's.

Phyllis Bodin will take reservations for our dinner-discussion. She may be reached at phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768. The cost for dinner is only \$13 for a choice among 6 entrees, plus salad, bread, beverage and ice cream, and includes tax and tip. We suggest an additional \$5 contribution to Footlights.

Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Please plan to arrive by 6:15. The program begins at 7:30 and ends at 9-9:30. You may come for the discussion only, if you wish. If you have to cancel, please let Phyllis know as soon as possible, and definitely by noon on February 23, so we have an accurate count for Alfio's.

Read *Everything Between Us*

We have photocopies of the draft script by David Ireland available at cost. Copies are for members' use only and not for further distribution. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call 240-669-6300 or e-mail robinlarkin@comcast.net, and send your check for \$10, payable to Footlights, to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, #L07, Rockville, MD 20852.

See *Everything Between Us* March 26

Footlights will see *Everything Between Us* on **Friday, March 26** at 8 p.m. at Flashpoint, 916 G Street, NW, Washington, DC. A post-show discussion is included. Tickets are \$10. Send your check, payable to Footlights, to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, #L07, Rockville, MD 20852.

Dinner-Discussion of Horton Foote's *The Trip to Bountiful* on March 11

The Trip to Bountiful, Horton Foote's most famous work, began life as a television play back in 1953 in the so-called "Golden Age of Television." It starred Lillian Gish and Eva Marie Saint, reunited when the play went from TV to Broadway. Next it became a movie, with Geraldine Page, who won a Best Actress Academy Award for her role as the elderly *Carrie Watts* who is sharing a small Houston apartment with her hen-pecked son and domineering daughter-in-law, and who longs to make one last trip back home to tiny Bountiful, Texas, before she dies. The problems: she is considered too old and frail to travel alone, and there is no money for bus tickets for the three of them. Meanwhile, *Carrie* sings hymns and meddles, the grown children argue with her and each other, and the play continues to delight audiences.

Playwright Horton Foote left his home in Wharton, Texas determined to become an actor, but soon found he was far more successful as a writer. He wrote for television and the movies, as well as the stage, and he won several Academy Awards for his screenplays including one for *To Kill a Mockingbird*. His play, *Young Man from Atlanta*, received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. (Incidentally, all four of his children are actors.) He wrote two memoirs about his life and his work, in addition to his more than 60 plays and screenplays. He was still busy trying to combine the nine plays of his *Orphans' Home Cycle* into a trilogy when he died. Part of this *Cycle* is now on Broadway.

Foote, who died last year at age 92, had a close connection with our local Quotidian Theatre. This began when theater

co-founder Jack Sbarbori wrote Foote a fan letter, and got an answer. Quotidian has done a number of the Foote plays, and Foote soon became an honorary member of the theater's board of directors.

Quotidian (the Latin word means *daily* or *commonplace*) specializes in plays about ordinary human lives, such as those portrayed in Chekhov's works, or Conor McPherson's, as well as Foote's. The Bethesda theater promises "no gunshots and no car chases" ever.

Footlights will discuss *A Trip to Bountiful* with Director **Jack Sbarbori** on **Thursday, March 11** at 6:30 p.m. We will meet at **Casa Fiesta**, 4910 Wisconsin Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20016 (phone: 202- 244-8888). The buffet is \$15, including tax and tip. Make reservations with Phyllis, phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768.

Read *The Trip to Bountiful*

Find a copy of Horton Foote's *The Trip to Bountiful* at your local library or Backstage Books, 545 8th Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003. Phone 202-544-5744 or e-mail backstagebooks@aol.com.

About Footlights

For more information about Footlights, check our website, <http://www.footlightsdc.org>. To subscribe to our e-list go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/footlightsdc/join> or send any message to footlightsdc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Footlights is an official 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation. To make a tax-deductible contribution to Footlights, send your check to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, #L07, Rockville, MD 20852. We rely on your support and contributions to enable us to provide our monthly dinner-discussions, theater trips, and newsletters.

Calendar

- Tuesday, February 23, 6:30 p.m., dinner-discussion of *Everything Between Us* by David Ireland. At Alfio's, 4515 Willard Ave., Chevy Chase, MD, 20815. **Linda Murray** is our guest speaker. Reserve with Phyllis, phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768.
- Thursday, March 11, 6:30 p.m., dinner-discussion of *The Trip to Bountiful* by Horton Foote. At Casa Fiesta, 4910 Wisconsin Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20016. **Jack Sbarbori** is our guest speaker. Reserve with Phyllis, phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768.
- Friday, March 26, 8 p.m., performance of *Everything Between Us*. At Solas Nua, Flashpoint, 916 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001. A post-show discussion is included. Tickets are \$10. Send your check, payable to Footlights, to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, #L07, Rockville, MD 20852.
- April date (tbd), dinner-discussion of *reasons to be pretty* by Neil LaBute. Director **David Muse** is our guest speaker.

Robin Larkin *for* **FOOTLIGHTS**
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