

from the FOOTLIGHTS

DECEMBER 2013

“Life shouldn’t be all work and no plays.”

<http://www.footlightsdc.org>

December 2: Serge Seiden, Ted van Griethuysen To Discuss Richard Nelson’s *The Apple Family Plays*

Footlights is pleased to welcome back Studio Theatre’s **Serge Seiden** – he is directing *The Apple Family Plays* – and actor **Ted van Griethuysen** to our **Monday, December 2** dinner-discussion at Alfio’s. Longtime Footlights member Dorothy Marschak will moderate our discussion.

Playwright Richard Nelson is familiar to Footlights as the Tony Award-winning playwright/adaptor of *James Joyce’s The Dead*. He has now written a series of four plays – one each year since 2010 – about the fictional, liberal Apple family of Rhinebeck, NY. From New York’s Public Theater: “The compelling plays are about family, politics, change, and the way we live today. They resonate with remarkable immediacy and relevance. Each of these plays originally premiered on the night on which it is set.

In *That Hopey Changey Thing*, the Apples reflect on the state of their family and discuss memory, manners and politics as polls close on mid-term election night 2010 and a groundswell of conservative sentiment flips Congress on its head. In *Sweet and Sad*, a family brunch stirs up discussions of loss, remembrance and a decade of change.”

Alfio’s Trattoria is located at 4515 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland, on the ground floor of the Willoughby Apartments, a short walk from the north entrance of the Friendship Heights metro stop on the red line. Street parking is limited if you drive, but valet parking is free at Alfio’s. Dinner is at 6:30; the discussion begins at 7:30 and ends at 9.

The all-inclusive cost for dinner and discussion is \$20. Dinner is a green salad, choice among six entrées, and spaghetti, green beans, bread and butter, ice cream, and tea or coffee. Alfio’s salad bar may be substituted for the entrée if you wish. Cash or check – no credit cards, please. Wine, beer, and cocktails are available from the bar. You may come for the discussion only for just \$5.

Make your reservations with Phyllis Bodin, 301-986-1768, or phylbo@verizon.net. Reservations and cancellations will be accepted until noon of the day of the discussion. If you must cancel please let Phyllis know as soon as possible since this is a seated dinner and the restaurant needs an accurate count for the place settings.

Read the plays. If you are coming to the dinner-discussion, and wish to read the plays, please e-mail Robin

Larkin at robinlarkin@comcast.net for e-copies of the scripts. Remember to honor the playwright’s copyrights on the material. Do not distribute to others.

See *The Apple Family Plays* with Footlights. On **Saturday, December 7** we will see both plays. At 3 p.m. is *That Hopey Changey Thing*. Tickets are \$35. Postshow discussion included. Add *Sweet and Sad* at 7 p.m. for \$30.

Each play is 90 minutes. Studio is offering its Atrium for those who wish to dine between shows. You may order a Whole Foods Apple Family box supper through the Studio Box Office (202-332-3300). There are many nearby restaurants, as well, if you prefer to go out between plays. Details for ordering the dinners and a list of nearby restaurants are found at <http://www.studiotheatre.org/visit/applefamilyeats.aspx>.

For tickets to either or both plays on December 7, reserve with Robin (robinlarkin@comcast.net or 240-669-6300), and send your check, payable to Footlights, to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Ln, #L07, Rockville, MD 20852 by Tuesday, November 26.

January 13: Dinner-discussion of Mario Vargas Llosa’s *The Young Lady from Tacna*

The last Footlights saw of **José Carrasquillo** he was playing Willie to Delia Taylor’s Winnie in Samuel Beckett’s *Happy Days* which he also directed for WSC Avant Bard. It was ‘another happy day’ for us. Now Footlights welcomes him back for a discussion of *The Young Lady from Tacna* by **Mario Vargas Llosa**, winner of the 2010 Nobel Prize for Literature. José will direct it for GALA Hispanic Theatre’s upcoming production.

Young Lady as described by GALA: In this tale of how tales are born, we see the past through the imagination of Belasario, a writer trying to create the grand romance of Mamae, a 90-year-old spinster aunt who ended her engagement with a dashing Chilean captain when she was young. A moving and humorous portrait of a family and its secrets in which memories and the present clash.

We’ll meet at Alfio’s. Mark your 2014 calendars for January 13 and reserve with Phyllis.

See *Our Suburb* at Theater J

At our November dinner-discussion, Footlights spent a fascinating evening with Ari Roth, Theater J’s Artistic Director, and Darrah Cloud, playwright, whose new play *Our Suburb* can be seen at Theater J December 19 – January 12. Theater J is offering tickets to Footlights

members for any performance at 20% off. When ordering your tickets, use the code FOOTLIGHTS20. Here is the link to online ticket sales - <https://www.boxofficetickets.com/bot/wa/event?id=225755>. We recommend matinee performances on January 5 or 12. Each of these dates has a postshow panel discussion scheduled. January 5 at 5 p.m. – Free Speech or Hate Speech: A Legal and Historical Perspective. January 12 at 5 p.m. – The Nazis March on Grover's Corners: Thornton Wilder and *Our Suburb*.

Theater J's Director Forum on December 2 at 7:30 features noted actress Judith Ivey who is directing *Our Suburb*. Tickets to this event are \$15. (Note the conflict with our *Apple Family* dinner-discussion at the same time.)

About Footlights

To learn more about Footlights, visit our website at <http://www.footlightsdc.org>. To subscribe to our e-list, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/footlightsdc/join>, or simply e-mail footlightsdc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Calendar

- **Monday, December 2**, 6:30 p.m. dinner-discussion of *The Apple Family Plays* by Richard Nelson. Our guests are **Serge Seiden**, director of the two plays, and actor **Ted van Griethuysen**. At Alfio's, 4515 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD. Dinner including discussion is \$20; discussion only is \$5. Reserve with Phyllis Bodin, phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768.
- **Saturday, December 7**, 3 p.m. performance of *That Hopey Changey Thing* at Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St, NW, DC. Tickets are \$35 and include postshow discussion. Add *Sweet and Sad* at 7 p.m. for \$30. Reserve with Robin, robinlarkin@comcast.net or 240-669-6300. Send your check to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, Apt. L07, Rockville, MD 20852 by Tuesday, November 26.
- **Monday, January 13**, 6:30 p.m. dinner-discussion of *The Young Lady from Tacna* by Mario Vargas Llosa. Director **José Carrasquillo** is our guest. At Alfio's. Reserve with Phyllis.

Robin Larkin for **FOOTLIGHTS**
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