

from the FOOTLIGHTS

JULY 2015

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

<http://www.footlightsdc.org>

July 20: Footlights Dinner-Discussion of *Twelve Angry Men* by Reginald Rose

After 20 years of presenting 20th century American plays with historical significance, The American Century Theater (TACT) is closing its doors. **Reginald Rose's *Twelve Angry Men*** - the jury for a homicide trial - will bring down the curtain.

Twelve Angry Men originated as a live broadcast on "Studio One," a show that was part of what is now regarded as the golden age of television drama. While serving as a juror on a manslaughter case, Rose successfully translated the heated debate that he experienced in the jury room into his Emmy-winning drama in 1954. The tale of a lone voice of dissent in the all male, all white jury weighing the fate of a non-white youth charged with patricide, the teleplay was a massive success that spawned an even more successful 1957 film starring Henry Fonda as Juror #8.

Staged in a 1964 London production, *Twelve Angry Men* did not reach Broadway until 2004. In 1994, though, TACT received special permission from the author to put his screenplay on stage, and the result both launched The American Century Theater's remarkable two decades journey and was chosen by City Paper as one of that year's top DC-area productions.

A few years later, Rose updated the script for a Showtime production. Then his version was played on Broadway for the first time, and was a huge hit. Now the play is performed all over the country as Reginald Rose wrote it. TACT's revival of the play helped that happen.

TACT's founding artistic director and Footlights frequent return guest **Jack Marshall** will tell us why he chose it for both their first and now their final production. Robin Larkin will moderate the discussion.

We will meet on **Monday, July 20** at Alfio's Trattoria, 4515 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD, 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. (Note: if you

know you must leave before 9, please try to sit near the door so you can exit quietly.)

The all-inclusive cost for dinner and discussion is \$20. Dinner is a green salad, choice among six entrees, 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, please – no credit cards. Wine, beer, cocktails are available from the bar. You may come for the discussion only for just \$5.

Make reservations with Phyllis Bodin, at phylbo@verizon.net or 301 986-1768. Reservations and/or cancellations will be accepted until noon on July 20. If you must cancel, please let Phyllis know as soon as possible since the restaurant needs a complete count. (This is a seated, table service, dinner, not a buffet. We may be charged for no-shows and expect you to cover our cost.)

Read the play. Copies of *Twelve Angry Men* may be found in local libraries or ordered online from Amazon, Samuel French, etc. For more information about TACT's upcoming production, read the press release at http://www.americancentury.org/pr_men.pdf.

August 2: See *Twelve Angry Men* with Footlights

Footlights will see TACT's *Twelve Angry Men* on Sunday, August 2, at 2:30 p.m. The performance is at Gunston Theater II, 2700 S Lang St, Arlington, VA. Tickets are \$15. Send your check, payable to Footlights, to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Ln, #L-07, Rockville, MD 20852.

Directions to the theater:

<http://www.americancentury.org/directions.php>.

Women's Voices Theater Festival: Footlights Previews August 27

This fall, DC-area theaters will present a groundbreaking festival.

The Women's Voices Theater Festival will involve more than 50 professional DC-area theaters, each presenting a world-premiere by one or more woman playwrights.

As stated on the festival website, "The Women's Voices Theater Festival will be the largest collaboration of theater companies working simultaneously to produce original works by female writers in history."

How can devoted theater-goers even begin to navigate such a rich array of theater? Since all the works are world premieres, choosing among the offerings will be a challenge. Some of the playwrights are familiar names but many are not.

Our August 27 Footlights meeting will begin to explore this amazing opportunity, taking an overview of the festival with a focus on some of the smaller professional theaters. Details are still being developed but please

stay tuned for further announcements.

Meanwhile, start considering your own choices, using the festival web site as a guide:

<http://www.womensvoicestheaterfestival.org/>

About Footlights

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

Calendar – Discussions:

- **Monday, July 20, 6:30 p.m.** dinner-discussion of ***Twelve Angry Men*** by **Reginald Rose**. Guest: American Century Theater Artistic Director **Jack Marshall**. 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.
- **Thursday, August 27, 6:30 p.m.** dinner-discussion of DC's upcoming Women's Voices Theater Festival.

Calendar – See Plays We've Discussed:

- **Sunday, July 12, 3 p.m.** – ***Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*** at **Keegan Theatre**, 1742 Church St NW, Washington, DC.
- **Sunday, August 2, 2:30 p.m.** – ***Twelve Angry Men*** at **The American Century Theater**, performing at the Gunston Theater II, 2700 S Lang St, Arlington, VA. Tickets are \$15. Reserve with Robin, 240-669-6300 and robinlarkin@comcast.net. Send your check, payable to Footlights, to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, Apt. L-07, Rockville, MD 20852.

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