

from the FOOTLIGHTS

AUGUST 2015

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

<http://www.footlightsdc.org>

August 27: Footlights Previews the Women's Voices Theater Festival

For a long time theater-goers have noticed that women playwrights are very under-represented in DC theater and, indeed, in US theater as well. Two years ago, several DC theaters thought of a spectacular way to address that situation: They conceived the Women's Voices Theater Festival. This fall, more than 50 world-premieres of plays by women playwrights will be presented by DC-area theaters.

And now, the Festival is here and theater-goers are overwhelmed by unprecedented choice. Yes, there is <http://www.womensvoicestheaterfestival.org/> - a wonderful, informative website.

And, yes, some of the theaters will present previews at the Kennedy Center's Page-to-Stage event. But how can we even begin to choose? The temptation is to hold back and see what the reviews say.

Footlights has never been a group to hold back - instead, we are going to jump right in. After all, we believe that conversation about theater is a great way to get started.

On **Thursday, August 27**, Footlights kicks off this intense festival experience by discussing just a few of the upcoming world premieres.

Our guests are:

- **Rachel Stroud-Goodrich**, and **Christopher Goodrich**, Co-Producing Artistic Directors of The Unexpected Stage Company. The play is ***Trish Tinkler Gets Saved*** by **Jacqueline Goldfinger**. On her 40th birthday, Trish Tinkler camps out in aisle 7 of the Eat 'n' Save. And waits. And waits. And waits. *Trish Tinkler Gets Saved* is a new comedy about finding home in the most unexpected places.

The Unexpected Stage Company performs at the Randolph Road Theater, 4010 Randolph Road, Wheaton, MD. *Trish* will play from October 8-18. For tickets and more information: <http://www.unexpectedstage.org>.

- **Pat Connelly**, and/or **Jennie Eng** of Thelma Theatre. The first play is ***Whenever You're Near Me I Feel Sick*** by **Jennie Berman Eng**. Twenty-somethings

Wendy and Andre are in love with each other, but to admit that would mean taking chances, making a commitment and being adults.

The second play is ***Princess Margaret*** by **Patricia Connelly**. It's 1969 in upstate New York, and eleven-year-old Margaret has been caught stealing milk from the local convent. Sister Anastasia takes pity on the impoverished girl, and admits her to the school.

Thelma Theatre productions are performed at the Trinidad Theatre, 1358 Florida Avenue NE. The plays run in repertory September 17 - October 4. For tickets and more information for both plays: <http://www.thelmatheatre.com>.

Charlotte Baer will moderate our discussion.

Scripts will be available. After you sign up to come to the August 27 dinner-discussion, you may request e-copies of scripts from Robin Larkin, robinlarkin@comcast.net.

We will meet 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 August 27. 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.)

In September: Footlights Discusses Jennifer Hoppe-House's Bad Dog

Jennifer Hoppe-House, screenwriter for TV episodes on such shows as *Nurse Jackie* and *Damages*, and now Netflix's *Grace and Frankie*, has written her first full length play - ***Bad Dog*** - Olney Theatre's entry in the Women's Voices Theater Festival, and also a Rolling World Premiere. *Bad Dog* is described as: After ten years clean and sober, Molly Drexler falls off the wagon and drives her Prius through her living room wall. With a hole in the house as big as the hole in their hearts, Molly's two sisters, mother, father, and wicked stepmother descend on the house for an "intervention" that doesn't play out the way anyone thought it would.

Bad Dog will play at Olney Theatre Center, 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney, MD, September 30 - October 25. See <http://olneytheatre.org/> for more information. Footlights plans to get group tickets.

Tentatively, we will meet at Alfio's on Thursday, September 24 for our dinner-discussion. We will have details and confirmation soon.

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:

- **Thursday, August 27**, 6:30 p.m. dinner-discussion of DC's upcoming Women's Voices Theater Festival. 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, September 24** (unconfirmed), 6:30 p.m. dinner-discussion of Jennifer Hoppe-House's *Bad Dog*. At Alfio's.

Robin Larkin for **FOOTLIGHTS**
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