

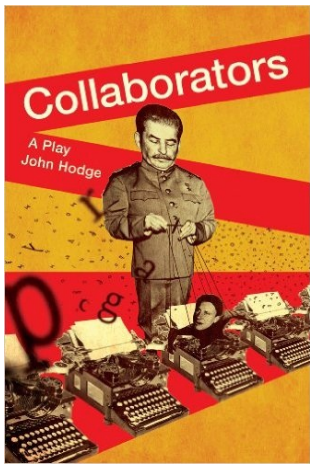
from the FOOTLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 2016

"Life shouldn't be all work and no plays." <http://www.footlightsdc.org>

February 16: John Hodge's *Collaborators*

Join us at Footlights on **Tuesday, February 16**, at Alfio's to discuss ***Collaborators***, a Spooky Action Theater Washington Area premiere. Recipient of the 2012 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play, *Collaborators* was written by British playwright **John Hodge**. (Hodge is perhaps best known for his Academy Award-nominated screenplay for the film *Trainspotting*, based on the novel by Irvine Welsh.)



Collaborators takes place in Moscow in 1938. Russian writer and playwright Mikhail Bulgakov has just finished his play *Moliere, or The Cabal of Hypocrites*, which his friends acclaim as a masterpiece. The day after the premiere, he is visited by two secret policemen from the NKVD. He learns his play is banned and will never be shown again unless he writes a new play glorifying the leader of the Soviet Union, Joseph Stalin, in honor of the dictator's 60th birthday. Stalin wants Bulgakov to write something he calls *Young Stalin*. Bulgakov must accept the commission; his hands are tied. "It's man versus monster, Mikhail," says Stalin. "And the monster always wins." Bulgakov is thoroughly blocked and baffled, until he gets help from an unexpected source. The deal that he cuts leads to unexpected and darkly comic consequences, both for himself and for his country.

We will be joined by **Richard Henrich**, Founder of Spooky Action Theater, and the director of this production of *Collaborators*. With Richard are actors **Paul Reisman** (Mikhail Bulgakov) and **Joe Duquette** (Josef Stalin). Stephanie Olshan will moderate our discussion.

Reserve now for Footlights' dinner-discussion of *Collaborators* on **Tuesday, February 16** at Alfio's, located at 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 February 16. 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.

If you are coming to the dinner-discussion and would like an e-copy of the play, contact Robin Larkin, robinlarkin@comcast.net once you have made your reservation with Phyllis. Please observe copyright restrictions and do not distribute to others. *Collaborators* is also available in paperback or Kindle format from Amazon.

Collaborators will be performed from February 11 through March 6 at Spooky Action Theater, performing on the lower level of the Universalist National Memorial Church, 1810 16th St NW, Washington, DC. See <http://www.spookyaction.org/> for more information and to purchase tickets. (Note: We expect to arrange a group to see the play.)

To read a Foreward by author John Hodge, which gives the historical background for the play, see <http://www.spookyaction.org/press>.

March 14: *The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord by Scott Carter*

Footlights meets on **Monday, March 14**, at Alfio's for dinner and discussion of ***The Gospel According to***

Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord by **Scott Carter**. Three of the world's greatest writers, Jefferson, Dickens, and Tolstoy all edited or adapted The Bible to suit their own views. This historical fluke inspired playwright Scott Carter to envision a theological debate between these three latter-day gospelists.

Our guest will be **Bill Largess**, Artistic Director at Washington Stage Guild where *Discord* will be performed March 30 through April 24. An actor from the cast may join us. Dorothy Marschak will moderate our discussion.

The Washington Stage Guild performs at the Undercroft Theatre which is in the ground (street) level of the Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church: 900 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

Calendar – Performances:

- **Saturday, February 13**, 2 p.m. at 1st Stage Theater to see ***When the Rain Stops Falling*** by **Andrew Bovell**. Tickets are \$22. Includes postshow discussion. 1st Stage is at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons, VA. Send your check, payable to Footlights, to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, Apt L-07, Rockville, MD 20852. Let Robin know your check is on the way - robinlarkin@comcast.net or 240-669-6300.
- **TBD** - We are looking into group tickets for ***Collaborators*** and ***Gospel According: Discord***.

Calendar – Discussions:

- **Tuesday, February 16**, 6:30 p.m. dinner-discussion of **John Hodge's *Collaborators*** with guests: director **Richard Henrich** and actors **Paul Reisman** and **Joe Duquette**. 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. Stephanie Olshan will moderate.
- **Monday, March 14**, 6:30 p.m. dinner-discussion of ***The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord*** by **Scott Carter** with guest **Bill Largess**. At Alfio's. Reserve with Phyllis Bodin, phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768. Dorothy Marschak will moderate.

Robin Larkin for **FOOTLIGHTS**
5800 Nicholson Lane, Apt. L-07
Rockville, MD 20852

Copies of the play are available from Dramatists Play Service --- www.dramatists.com.

About Footlights

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