

# from the FOOTLIGHTS

JULY 2017

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

<http://www.footlightsdc.org>

## *Footlights to Discuss Horton Foote's Night Seasons on Monday, July 17*

Please join Footlights at Alfio's on July 17 when we meet for dinner and a discussion of **Horton Foote's *Night Seasons***.

Horton Foote, perhaps considered America's Chekhov, was a prize-winning playwright and screenwriter (he adapted *To Kill a Mockingbird* for film and remained a lifelong friend of its author Harper Lee, who once said he "looked like God, but cleanshaven"). His play *Young Man from Atlanta* won the Pulitzer prize for Drama in 1995. Foote began his career as an actor, but got better reviews for his plays than for his performances, and became one of the best-known writers for live TV drama in the 1950s. His *The Trip to Bountiful* premiered as a TV play and then went on to Broadway. Foote has been described as a quiet man who wrote about quiet people. . . who handle their losses, and hardship, and heartbreak with dignity.

**Jack Sbarbori**, co-founder of Quotidian Theatre Company, once wrote Foote a fan letter, and this resulted in a long correspondence and friendship with the playwright. Quotidian has produced many of Foote's plays, and Footlights has discussed several of them: *Tomorrow* (Foote's adaptation of the Faulkner play), December 2006; *The Carpetbagger's Children*, October 2007; and *The Trip to Bountiful*, March 2010.

*Night Seasons* is about the wealthy Weems family of Harrison, Texas, during the years 1923 to 1963, and "the human casualties of a life defined by bank balances." It begins with matriarch Josie's 92nd birthday. We meet daughter Laura Lee, a spinster in her 30s because the family never considered any of her beaux good enough or rich enough for her, her two brothers, Josie's devoted black nurse Doris who still works for \$12 a week because the family does not think she is good enough for a raise, plus assorted spouses, nieces, and nephews. The story moves back and forth across the decades.

Our guest speakers will include Jack Sbarbori, Quotidian co-founder **Stephanie Mumford**, **Jane Squier Bruns** (Josie), **Carolyn Kashner** (Laura Lee), and Footlights' own **Debbie Jackson** who will play the long-suffering nurse Doris. **Mary Ann Wren** will moderate.

Our July 17 dinner-discussion is at **Alfio's**, 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, but valet parking is available at Alfio's. Dinner is at 6:30, the discussion at 7:30 and ends no later than 9.

**Please note: The all-inclusive cost for dinner and the discussion is now \$25.\*** 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, please – no credit cards. Wine, beer, cocktails are available from the bar. You may come at 7:20 for the discussion only for just \$5.

**Make reservations** with Phyllis Bodin, at [phylbo@verizon.net](mailto:phylbo@verizon.net) or 301-986-1768. Reservations and/or cancellations will be accepted until noon on the day of the dinner-discussion. 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.** *Night Seasons* is available from Dramatists Play Service, Inc. for \$9.00 plus handling and shipping costs. Order by phone at 212-683-8960, online at [dramatists.com/cgi-bin/db/single.asp?key=772](http://dramatists.com/cgi-bin/db/single.asp?key=772).

If you are willing to get to the Rockville area and wish to borrow a copy (short term, if others are waiting), contact Robin Larkin ([robinlarkin@comcast.net](mailto:robinlarkin@comcast.net) or 240-669-6300).

**See the play.** *Night Seasons* runs from July 14 to August 13. Footlights will have a block of seats for the July 23, 2 p.m. matinée. Quotidian has offered us tickets at the special price of \$15, for the entire run. *Night Seasons* will be performed at The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street in Bethesda, a short walk from the Bethesda metro station and with a public parking lot across the street from the Center.

To get tickets Footlights members can use the word FOOTLIGHTS, either on the phone (301-816-1023), or by e-mail to [gtcboxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:gtcboxoffice@gmail.com). Payment (\$15/ticket) will be due at the box office, in cash or by

check. Online, through Brown Paper Tickets at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2919962> for the 23 July date ONLY, Footlights can use the "Student/Writers Center Member" option. If you buy a ticket online, please notify Quotidian (301-816-1023 or [gtcboxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:gtcboxoffice@gmail.com)) so you can be included in the Footlights group.

### *About Footlights*

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**Please Note: To continue to receive newsletters via postal mail, contact Robin, [robinlarkin@comcast.net](mailto:robinlarkin@comcast.net) or 240-669-6300. A donation to cover mailing costs is kindly requested.**

### *See You in September*

We'll be taking August off. Back in September for another season of modern drama discussion. Have a great summer!

\* For many years now, we have marveled that Alfio's has been able to provide Footlights quality dinners, including tax and tip, at a truly bargain price. New owners have raised rates for groups. They have kept our increase as low as they can, in light of our long term status as loyal customers. Alfio's dinner price is still a bargain.

Sometimes, though, we are not able to book space at Alfio's at times convenient for our guest speakers, and would like your recommendations for a backup space - reasonable price, quiet space, convenient to Metro. Please contact Phyllis Bodin if you are able to check out a suitable suggestion for an alternative (your summer assignment!).

### *Calendar:*

- **Monday, July 17**, 6:30 p.m., dinner-discussion of **Horton Foote's *Night Seasons*** with co-founders **Jack Sbarbori** and **Stephanie Mumford** and others with Quotidian Theatre Company's production. Mary Ann Wren moderates. At Alfio's, 4515 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD. Reserve with Phyllis Bodin, [phylbo@verizon.net](mailto:phylbo@verizon.net) or 301-986-1768.
- **Sunday, July 23**, 2 p.m., performance of **Horton Foote's *Night Seasons*** at Quotidian Theatre Company, The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda, MD. Talkback. Footlights tickets are \$15. See ordering details above.
- **August**, no meeting.

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