

from the FOOTLIGHTS

MARCH 2019

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

<http://www.footlightsdc.org>

Playwright Jon Klein comes to Footlights March 4

Footlights is delighted that playwright **Jon Klein** will join director **Steven Carpenter** to discuss Washington Stage Guild's production of *Resolving Hedda* at Alfio's on **Monday, March 4**.

Everybody knows that Ibsen's classic, *Hedda Gabler*, involves tragedy. In fact, reviewers often reference Chekhov's maxim "If a gun appears in Act 1 it must be used in Act 2." But what if you were the actress playing Hedda every night and you got tired of dying? That idea underlies Jon Klein's new play, *Resolving Hedda*. Called a mix between *Hedda Gabler* and *Noises Off*, the play wowed Los Angeles critics when it opened there last year. It received the Critic's Choice from the Los Angeles Times, as well as the Michael Devereaux Award for Best Playwriting, 2018.

The last few years have brought a rash of plays updating classic modern drama. Only a couple of years ago, the DC area was flooded with modern Chekhovian plays. Last year Broadway presented an Ibsen sequel: *The Doll's House, part 2*, to be produced locally this spring at Roundhouse Theatre. But *Resolving Hedda* involves something perhaps more radical – a change of tone from tragedy to comedy.

Attendees on March 4 can ask the playwright directly – how does he do it? Do the original characters appearing in the new play have personality transplants? How does he contrast the world of the play with the world that modern actors – and we – inhabit? Does the comedy arise from the clash of centuries?

Jon Klein is eager to avoid spoilers and so he is offering a digital version only of Act I. When you make your reservation for the dinner and discussion on March 4, you can email Robin Larkin (robinlarkin@comcast.net) and she will send Act I to you. Of course you can choose to buy the full play – *Resolving Hedda* is available on Amazon or Broadway Play Publishing. Attendees may also want to re-read the original *Hedda Gabler* and to think about the many productions you have seen. Are the characters likable? Sympathetic? Off-putting? Annoying? All of the above? Charlotte Baer will moderate our discussion.

Jon Klein is the author of over 30 produced plays and heads the MFA Playwriting Program at Catholic University of America here in DC. This is Jon's first visit to Footlights but one of his students, Bob Bartlett, led a discussion of his play, *Swimming With Whales* at Footlights last year.

Washington Stage Guild is one of Footlights members' favorite theaters and we are delighted to welcome them back for our dinner/discussion. Steven Carpenter is associate artistic director and will direct the play. Washington Stage Guild performs at 900 Massachusetts Ave NW, near several downtown Metro stops as well as the Circulator bus and Metro bus #42. The show runs March 21 to April 14.

Footlights will attend the Saturday 2:30 pm matinee of *Resolving Hedda* on **Saturday, March 30**. The special Footlights price is \$25. Please reserve your ticket with Robin Larkin and then send her your check, payable to Footlights – address is 5800 Nicholson Ln, Apt L-07, Rockville, MD 20852. The afternoon will include a post-show discussion.

Our March 4 dinner-discussion meets 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, but valet parking is available at Alfio's. Dinner is at 6:30, the discussion begins at 7:30 and ends by 9.

The all-inclusive cost for dinner and the discussion is \$30. 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 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.

April 16: Dinner-Discussion of Ken Ludwig's *A Comedy of Tenors*

What if you were playwright **Ken Ludwig** and attended a revival of your wildly popular comedy *Lend Me a Tenor*? You fondly remember your characters, and even though it has been some years, you think what fun it would be to revisit them. But what about the plot? And then, you think about the cultural phenomenon known as The Three Tenors. And so, ***A Comedy of Tenors*** is born.

As the New York Times said: "Doors slam, trios are sung, seductions are interrupted, faces are slapped and a very good time ensues."

Footlights is pleased to welcome back **Jason King Jones**, Senior Associate Artistic Director, Olney Theatre, to discuss *A Comedy of Tenors* with us. He will direct Olney's production which runs April 10 - May 12. Robin Larkin will moderate our discussion.

Please join us on **Tuesday, April 16** at Alfio's. Make reservations with Phyllis.

About Footlights

To subscribe to the Footlights e-list, go to groups.yahoo.com/group/footlightsdc/join, or e-mail any message to footlightsdc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. To learn more about Footlights, see www.footlightsdc.org.

Calendar:

- **Monday, March 4**, 6:30 pm, dinner-discussion of ***Resolving Hedda***. Guests: Playwright **Jon Klein** and **Steven Carpenter**, director of the Washington Stage Guild upcoming production. Charlotte Baer moderates. At **Alfio's**, 4515 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD. Reserve with Phyllis Bodin at phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768.
- **through March 10**, performances of ***The Master and Margarita*** at Constellation Theatre.
- **Saturday, March 30**, 2:30 pm, performance of ***Resolving Hedda*** at Washington Stage Guild. Footlights tickets are \$25. A postshow discussion is included. Reserve and send your check to Robin Larkin. The run is March 21 - April 14.
- **Sunday, April 14**, 2pm, matinee performance of ***Ghost-Writer*** at Quotidian Theatre Company (The Writer's Center in Bethesda). Playwright **Michael Hollinger** will join a postshow discussion. Footlights tickets are \$20. Reserve at qtcboxoffice@gmail.com or 301-816-1023.
- **Tuesday, April 16**, 6:30 pm, dinner-discussion of ***A Comedy of Tenors*** by **Ken Ludwig**. Guest: **Jason King Jones**, Olney Theatre Center Senior Associate Artistic Director. Robin Larkin moderates. At Alfio's. Reserve with Phyllis. Performances at Olney Theatre run from April 10 - May 12.

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