

# from the FOOTLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 2019

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

<http://www.footlightsdc.org>

## November 12: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*

This *Dog In the Night-Time*...has nothing to do with Sherlock Holmes!

Despite its title, Simon Stephens' play, ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time***, has absolutely nothing to do with the story starring Sherlock Holmes, who made that line famous\* – and **Ryan Rilette** and/or **Jared Mazzoichi** co-directors of the upcoming production at Round House Theatre will tell Footlights members why on Tuesday, November 12.

But the play, an adaptation of Mark Haddon's best-selling novel of the same name, does feature a dog in the nighttime...a dead dog. And how Christopher Boone, 15, who describes himself as "a mathematician with some behavioral problems" solves that mystery, mathematically, of course.

The play explores not just murder, and not just of the dog, but also the nature of Asperger's Syndrome (autism), as medical science these days would classify Boone as having a form of that.

Boone's autism takes on the aspect of seeing things differently than others do, and as his kaleidoscopic views change, so do the problems he confronts. That's where his mathematical skills come to the fore.

"While trying to solve the murder mystery, he (Boone) uncovers a family secret that changes everything. A murder, an escape, affairs and several self-discoveries all rolled into 2-1/2 hours of simultaneously insane, heartbreaking and heartwarming art," the *Cincinnati News-Record* said in a recent review of a production there.

**\*Note:** The title refers to an observation by the fictional detective Sherlock Holmes in Arthur Conan Doyle's 1892 short story "The Adventure of Silver Blaze."

The play also "challenges us to seek out the silver linings in ourselves—and others—as we make our way through the world," Round House says in its preview.

The play, winner of five Tony Awards also includes "a hair-raising scene" where Boone "is plucked from the path of a speeding train," the *Hollywood Reporter* said. "The moment is jolting as the audience can practically feel the floor rumble beneath its feet. Only there is no train, just sound effects and lights."

"The story is told from Christopher's point of view, meaning the challenge falls on the creators to physically translate the world through his eyes. In *Curious Incident*, the solution is surprisingly simple. Christopher lives with most of the world's noise shut out, in a neat and ordered universe of likes and dislikes. Such a place naturally suggests minimalism," the *Reporter* added.

But it's minimalism with a mathematical twist, and therein may be the link with Sherlock Holmes, who was distinguished by his severely logical reasoning, just like mathematics.

We welcome back **Ryan Rilette**, now in his 8<sup>th</sup> season as Round House Artistic Director. **Jared Mazzoichi** is co-directing and is the projections designer for *Curious Incident*. Please join us for our dinner-discussion on November 12.

We will meet 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](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 we are charged for no-shows we expect you to cover our cost.

**Read the play.** *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* is available from Dramatists Play Service - \$10 for the acting edition or \$9 for ePlay, also from Amazon - \$10 for Kindle, slightly more for print copies.

**See the play.** Performances at Round House run from November 20 – December 22. See <https://www.roundhousetheatre.org/On-Stage/Explore/The-Curious-Incident-of-the-Dog-in-the-Night-Time> for information about the play, cast, list of postshow discussions, tickets, etc.

### *Calendar:*

- **Tuesday, November 12**, 6:30 pm, dinner-discussion of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by **Simon Stephens**, based on the novel by **Mark Haddon**. Guests: **Ryan Rilette** and/or **Jared Mezzocchi**, co-directors of the Round House production. Mark Gruenberg moderates. At Alfio's, 4515 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD. Reserve with Phyllis Bodin at [phylbo@verizon.net](mailto:phylbo@verizon.net) or 301-986-1768.

Robin Larkin for **FOOTLIGHTS**

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### *Last Month's Play – Albee's Occupant*

Discounted tickets for any performance are available through Theater J Box Office. Footlights members should use promo code **Lucky18**. This offer is good until the play opens, November 7. Postshow discussions are: cast talk-back after the November 13 7:30pm show; creative team conversation after the 2pm matinee on November 17; and a Sunday symposium with art professionals on Nevelson after the November 24 matinee.

### *In Memoriam*

We send condolences to family and friends on the recent passing of longtime Footlights member **Ed Kelty**.

### *About Footlights*

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