

from the FOOTLIGHTS

JUNE 2019

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

<http://www.footlightsdc.org>

The Oldest Boy: A Play in Three Ceremonies by Sarah Ruhl - Dinner-Discussion on Monday, June 10 at Alfio's

An American mother and a Tibetan father must make a life-altering choice that will test their strength, their marriage and their hearts. Two Tibetan monks seek their three-year-old son. The boy is the reincarnation of a revered Buddhist lama, and the monks propose to take the child away for a life of spiritual training in India.

The mother eventually agrees with her son in letting him pursue the life of a Buddhist monk. She also agrees to take refuge, that is become a Buddhist, with the Lama as her teacher. The oldest boy character is represented as a puppet before becoming a monk and then by the puppet master.

"*The Oldest Boy* is a richly emotional journey filled with music, dance, puppetry, ritual and laughter - Sarah Ruhl at her imaginative best," says Spooky Action Theater Artistic Director Richard Henrich. "A meditation on attachment and unconditional love, the play shows us a world in which the youngest children are sometimes also the oldest and wisest teachers."

Our guests are **Richard Henrich**, director **Kate Bryer**, and choreographer **Tuyet Thi Pham**. John Glynn will moderate our discussion.

Our Monday, June 10 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.



Read the play. *The Oldest Boy* script is available for purchase. Samuel French and Amazon have copies in a variety of formats to order. Copies may be found in the DC Library, possibly in other local libraries, also.

The Oldest Boy is the fourth Sarah Ruhl play we've discussed. The others are *Eurydice*, *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play*, and *Stage Kiss*. Ruhl is working with composer Matthew Aucoin for a new opera of *Eurydice* to be presented at LA Opera in February 2020, and included by the Metropolitan Opera in their 2021-22 Season.

See the play. Spooky Action Theater performs in the lower level of the Universalist National Memorial Church, 1810 16th Street, NW, in DC. Performances at Spooky Action run from June 6 - 30.

*On Monday, July 29, dinner-discussion of Harold Pinter's **Betrayal***

Our July 29 dinner-discussion will be all about Harold Pinter's **Betrayal**.

The play, considered one of Pinter's best, is based on the playwright's own adulterous affair with a married woman and the first betrayal was perhaps his writing the play while the seven-year affair was ongoing. The play is structured in reverse: it begins after the affair has ended, and it ends as we see the affair begin, as Jerry meets Emma – who is married to Jerry's best friend Robert (who incidentally we later find is having his own extra-marital dalliance) - and the betrayals multiply.

We welcome back the creative team from 4615 Theatre Company, just beginning its third season, and we expect a lively discussion. We'll meet at Alfio's. Reserve with Phyllis.

Stevie Zimmerman will direct 4615's production of *Betrayal*. It will run at 4615 (Highwood Theatre in Silver Spring) August 16 - September 8.

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:

- **Through June 16**, see *Sooner/Later* by **Allyson Currin** at Mosaic Theater Company. Use code FOOTLIGHTS for a 30% discount on tickets from Mosaic, or check out TodayTix for \$17 tickets (\$12 plus \$5 fee). Many performances include postshow discussions.
- **Monday, June 10**, 6:30 pm, dinner-discussion of *The Oldest Boy: A Ceremony in Three Acts* by **Sarah Ruhl**. Guests: Spooky Action Theater Artistic Director **Richard Henrich**, director **Kate Bryer**, and choreographer **Tuyet Thi Pham**. John Glynn will moderate. At **Alfio's**, 4515 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD. Reserve with Phyllis Bodin at phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768. Performances at Spooky Action run from June 6 - 30.
- **Monday, July 29**, 6:30 pm, dinner-discussion of *Betrayal* by **Harold Pinter**. Guests: 4615 Theatre Company creative team. Mary Ann Wren will moderate. At **Alfio's**. Reserve with Phyllis Bodin. Performances at 4615 run from August 16 - September 8.

Robin Larkin for **FOOTLIGHTS**
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