

# from the FOOTLIGHTS

OCTOBER 2007

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

<http://www.footlightsdc.org>

## ***Carpenter's Children***

Wednesday, October 24th, at Alfio's, Footlights is meeting with director Jack Sbarbori and the cast of the upcoming Quotidian Theatre production of Horton Foote's play, *The Carpenter's Children*, recipient of the American Theatre Critics 2002 Best Play Award.

The cast members joining us will be Leah Mazade, Stephanie Mumford, and Barbara Scheide who will be playing the three sisters from a family that built its fortune in Texas in the wake of the Civil War, but now is in decline. Leah Mazade received a Watch Award for her role as Linda Loman in the Chevy Chase Players production of *Death of a Salesman*. Stephanie Mumford appeared in *Tomorrow* and other Quotidian productions of Horton Foote plays. All three appeared in a 2003 production of *Carpenter's Children* at Quotidian.

Jack Sbarbori and the actors of Quotidian Theatre have extensive experience in the production of plays by Horton Foote and a great deal of knowledge of and enthusiasm for his work. Footlights met with Jack Sbarbori before to discuss the Horton Foote stage adaptation of the Faulkner short story *Tomorrow*. The Quotidian production of that work received much favorable comment.

Horton Foote's career as a playwright spans 65 years. He won the 1995 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for *The Young Man From Atlanta*, but is perhaps best known for writing Academy Award winning screenplays of *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Tender Mercies*. Foote's many awards including two Academy Awards, an Emmy, and his induction into both the Theatre Hall of Fame and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2000, President Clinton conferred the National Medal of Arts on Horton Foote. More recently, Foote has a play that just opened in New York, *Dividing the Estate*.

We meet at **Alfio's**, in the Willoughby Apartments, 4515 Willard Ave., Chevy Chase, MD, two blocks from the Friendship Heights Metro. Dinner is \$12 (includes tip) with several choices of entree, salad, bread, ice cream & coffee. Dinner is at 6:30; the discussion begins at 7:30.

Contact Mark Gruenberg to reserve for dinner, 202-898-4825 or [press\\_associates@yahoo.com](mailto:press_associates@yahoo.com).

If you later find you must cancel your dinner reservation, please let Mark know by noon on October 24 so we have an accurate count of dinner reservations.

*Carpenter's Children* by Horton Foote can be obtained at Backstage Books (202-544-5744), 545 8th St. SE, Washington, DC (Eastern Market blue line metro stop). Before going to pick up a copy of the play, call first to make sure copies of the play are still in stock.

On Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m., Footlights will be attending the Quotidian Theatre production of *The Carpenter's Children*. There will be a cast discussion after the play.

Quotidian performs at The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda MD. Tickets are \$10. For directions to the theater: <http://www.quotidiantheatre.org/directions.htm>. Send your check, payable to FOOTLIGHTS, to Robin Larkin, at her **new address**: 5800 Nicholson Lane, Apt L07, Rockville, MD 20852. Please see that your check arrives by October 22.

## ***Caligula* at Clark Street Playhouse**

Footlights will see our September play, *Caligula* at WSC (Clark Street Playhouse), 601 S. Clark St., Crystal City (Arlington), VA (703-418-4808) on **Sunday, October 21 at 2 p.m.**

Tickets are \$15. The deadline for payment is October 15. Make your check payable to Footlights. Send to Robin Larkin at her **new address**: 5800 Nicholson Lane, Apt. L07, Rockville, MD 20852. Call or e-mail Robin to say your check is on the way at 240-669-6300 or [robinlarkin@comcast.net](mailto:robinlarkin@comcast.net).

## **Support Footlights**

To join our e-mail discussion list, send any message to [footlightsdc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:footlightsdc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). Or browse to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/footlightsdc/join>.

Please support Footlights, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization. Send your tax-deductible contributions to Footlights, c/o Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, Apt. L07, Rockville, MD 20852.

## Next Month at Footlights

Coming in November, Thornton Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth*.

Elia Kazan directed the play at its Broadway premier in November 1942. Tallulah Bankhead, Frederic March, Florence Eldridge and Montgomery Clift starred in the show. Laurence Olivier directed the London premier in May 1945. Vivien Leigh starred in the production. Sir Laurence starred in the show when he took it on tour to Australia and New Zealand in 1948. At a revival in Paris in June 1955, Mary Martin, George Abbott and Helen Hayes played the principal parts.

Of course, it was not the star-studded production on Broadway that gave Wilder in 1943 his second Pulitzer Prize for drama (the first, of course, was for *Our Town* in 1938). But these casts do show how much the great players of that time wanted to be in his plays. Not simply because his play was likely to be popular, but also because we (and Great Britain) had just come through the Great Depression by the skin of our teeth and less than a year after Pearl Harbor and the Nazi conquest of almost all of Europe, democracy would be lucky if it came through by the skin of its teeth.

The cast and opening night of our November meeting is still being put together.

## Calendar

- Sunday, October 21, 2 p.m., performance of *Caligula* at Washington Shakespeare Company (Clark St Playhouse), 601 S. Clark St, Crystal City, VA. Tickets are \$15; includes postshow discussion.
- Wednesday, October 24, 6:30 p.m. dinner-discussion of *The Carpetbagger's Children* at Alfio's, in the Willoughby Apartments, 4515 Willard Ave., Chevy Chase, MD.
- Sunday, October 28, 2 p.m., performance of *The Carpetbagger's Children* by the Quotidian Theatre Company performing at 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda, MD. Tickets are \$10; includes postshow discussion.
- November (date and place to be determined) Dinner discussion of Thornton Wilder's **The Skin of Our Teeth**.

**Dinner-discussion reservations:** Reserve with Mark Gruenberg, 202-898-4825 or [press\\_associates@yahoo.com](mailto:press_associates@yahoo.com).

**Theater tickets:** Robin Larkin, 240-669-6300 or [robinlarkin@comcast.net](mailto:robinlarkin@comcast.net). Make check payable to **Footlights**. Send to Robin Larkin at her **new address:** 5800 Nicholson Lane, Apt. L07, Rockville, MD 20852.

Beatrice Rouse *for* **FOOTLIGHTS**  
P.O. Box 5443  
Rockville, MD 20848-5443