

from the FOOTLIGHTS

MAY 2013

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

<http://www.footlightsdc.org>

Footlights to Discuss Stoppard's *The Real Thing* on May 13 – Guest: David Muse

"...not only Stoppard's most moving play, but also the most bracing play that anyone has written about love and marriage in years." – Frank Rich, *The New York Times*

"Words... They're innocent, neutral, precise, standing for this, describing that, meaning the other, so if you look after them you can build bridges across incomprehension and chaos. But when they get their corners knocked off, they're no good any more... I don't think writers are sacred, but words are. They deserve respect. If you get the right ones in the right order, you can nudge the world a little or make a poem which children will speak for you when you're dead." – Tom Stoppard, *The Real Thing: A Play*

"I love love. I love having a lover and being one. The insularity of passion. I love it. I love the way it blurs the distinction between everyone who isn't one's lover." – Tom Stoppard, *The Real Thing: A Play*

Footlights returns to a favorite playwright when we discuss **Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing*** (1982) on **Monday, May 13** at Alfio's. Over the years, we have explored no less than five Stoppard plays. (See <http://www.footlightsdc.org/PastPlays.htm> for a chronology of all plays we've discussed.) In this one, as Studio Theatre's website describes, "Henry is a celebrated playwright, his wife is an actress, and his latest play is a Coward-esque take on relationships and adultery. But as the intricate web of off-stage infidelities unfolds, relationships prove much more demanding than a drroll retort. A distinguished play about the complexities of commitment, the power of great writing, and the mysterious ways of love, from one of the world's most celebrated playwrights."

Our very special guest is **David Muse**, artistic director of Studio Theatre, and director of Studio's upcoming production of *The Real Thing* (performances begin May 22). David Muse was selected as Studio's artistic director, succeeding founder Joy Zinoman three years ago. He served previously as associate artistic director to Michael Kahn at Shakespeare Theatre Company for five years. His directing experience covers a wide range of plays from modern drama to Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Footlights is honored to welcome him to our discussion of Stoppard's *The Real Thing*.

Moderators are Robin Larkin and Don Bliss.

We'll meet for our dinner-discussion at **Alfio's** Trattoria, located on the ground floor of the Willoughby Apartments, 4515 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD. The restaurant is just two blocks from the Friendship Heights metro stop on the red line. Street parking is limited but valet parking is free at Alfio's, if you drive. Dinner is at 6:30 and the discussion begins at 7:30 and ends at 9. Cost for dinner is just \$13, and that includes tax and tip. You will get a salad, bread, choice among six entrees, ice cream, and tea or coffee. Cash or check – no credit cards, please. Beer, wine, and cocktails are available from the bar. You may come for the discussion only if you wish. We appreciate a \$5 contribution to Footlights.

To reserve, contact Phyllis Bodin, at 301-986-1768 or phylbo@verizon.net. Should you need to cancel, please do so by noon on May 13, so we have an accurate count for the restaurant, otherwise you may need to pay for your dinner.

Read *The Real Thing*. Copies of Stoppard plays are readily available at local libraries and bookstores or order on-line from the usual sources. Amazon has a bargain paperback copy for \$6. L.A. Theatreworks offers a recording. We encourage you to read the play prior to our discussion.

See *The Real Thing* with Footlights. Performances begin on May 22 at Studio Theatre. We will see it on **Saturday, June 15**, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and include a postshow discussion. Send your check, payable to Footlights, to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, #L-07, Rockville, MD 20852.

See *Ghost-Writer* with Footlights

You still have time to join us! *Ghost-Writer* – our April discussion play – will be performed through June 2 at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal Street in Alexandria. Footlights will see it on **Sunday, May 5** at 3 p.m. Our tickets are \$30 (comparable to Goldstar's price) and include a postshow discussion. Contact Robin Larkin, 240-669-6300 or robinlarkin@comcast.net.

June 17: Jacqueline Lawton's *The Hampton Years*

Theater J has commissioned this breakthrough work – part of their Locally Grown Festival. The play explores the growth of two great African-American artists, John

Biggers and Samella Lewis under the tutelage of Austrian Jewish refugee painter and educator Viktor Lowenfeld, focusing on the pivotal years at Hampton Institute, Virginia during WWII.

Footlights will meet at **Alfio's** for our dinner-discussion of *The Hampton Years* on **Monday, June 17** – 6:30 p.m. for dinner with discussion beginning at 7:30. Our guests are playwright **Jacqueline Lawton** and director **Shirley Serotsky**. Make reservations with Phyllis Bodin, phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768.

Draft script copies of *The Hampton Years* will be available. Theater J is producing *The Hampton Years* May 29 - June 30.

About Footlights

To learn more about Footlights, visit our website: <http://www.footlightsdc.org>. To subscribe to our e-list, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/footlightsdc/join>, or e-mail footlightsdc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Calendar

- **Sunday, May 5**, 3 p.m., performance of *Ghost-Writer* at MetroStage. Tickets are \$30; postshow discussion included. Reserve with Robin Larkin, robinlarkin@comcast.net or 240-669-6300.
- **Monday, May 13**, 6:30 p.m., dinner-discussion of *The Real Thing* by **Tom Stoppard**. Our guest is **David Muse**, artistic director of Studio Theatre. At Alfio's, 4515 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD. Robin Larkin and Don Bliss co-moderate. Reserve with Phyllis Bodin, phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768.
- **Saturday, June 15**, 2 p.m., performance of *The Real Thing* at Studio Theatre. Tickets are \$35; postshow discussion included. Reserve with Robin, robinlarkin@comcast.net or 240-669-6300. Send your check, payable to Footlights, to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, Apt. L-07, Rockville, MD 20852.
- **Monday, June 17**, 6:30 p.m., dinner-discussion of *The Hampton Years* by **Jacqueline Lawton**. Guests: **Jacqueline Lawton** and **Shirley Serotsky**, director of Theater J's upcoming production. Mary Ann Wren moderates. At Alfio's. Reserve with Phyllis.

Robin Larkin for **FOOTLIGHTS**
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