

from the FOOTLIGHTS

FALL 2022

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

footlightsdc.org

September 12: Footlights to Discuss Lynn Nottage's *Mlima's Tale* with Director José Carrasquillo

Please join us for our second post-pandemic in-person gathering on **Monday, September 12, 6 pm**, at The Elizabeth, 4601 N Park Ave, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. We will discuss ***Mlima's Tale***, by **Lynn Nottage** with **José Carrasquillo**, director of 1st Stage's upcoming production.



José Carrasquillo

Pulitzer Prize winner, Lynn Nottage, renowned for her rich multi-layered character gems in such plays as *Intimate Apparel*, *Sweat*, *Ruined*, just to name a few, has turned her attention to the plight of poached elephants. In describing *Mlima's Tale*, a New York Times interview indicated that Lynn Nottage "swapped her usual natural realism with magical realism." The spirit of *Mlima* takes the audience on an incredible journey of what happens over the lifetime of his massive tusks pilfered in greed and ignorance.

In the interview, Nottage explained that *Mlima's Tale* is rooted in aspects of Africa's ivory trade that continues to impact wildlife. She also indicated that it's an environmental play in dealing with the extravagance of human consumption and ongoing destruction of the earth's natural treasures. *Mlima's Tale* got its world premiere in 2018 before the pandemic and noted the injustice and global impact of valuable artifacts pilfered from countries even before such issues became prominent in daily discourse on the national scene. Yet again, Nottage displays an uncanny ability to stoke out relevant issues and present the material as a beautifully engaging theatrical discourse. Her hope "is that the play will open audience's eyes to the issue and prompt them to take action."

Director and Footlights favorite José Carrasquillo will join us for a fascinating exploration of this innovative play. From the early years of the "Clark Street Playhouse" José has directed productions throughout the D.C. metropolitan area, the country, and the world. He is currently Director of Artistic Programming at Ford's Theatre. With his

international purview and empathic sensitivities, he is perfectly situated to provide insight about the premise of the play, the use of an actor to relay the spirit of *Mlima*, and how "magical realism" brings the story to life. Footlights' Debbie Jackson will moderate.

Location: We will meet in the party room at The Elizabeth, 4601 N Park Ave, which is located just up the hill from our usual spots (Alfio's and Meiwah) in the neighborhood and can be accessed from the Friendship Heights Metro. Parking for visitors is available in The Elizabeth garage and also on nearby streets. Please allow time to arrive, find a parking place, check in, and get to the party room. The room will open at 5:40.

To park at The Elizabeth, pull into the circular driveway and come in to the front desk. You must give the receptionist your license tag number and receive an entry code that will allow you access to the visitors garage just to the right of the driveway. Park and take the elevator to the lobby for directions to the party room.



"Shakespeare in Love" Discussion at The Elizabeth

This is a free event to celebrate our second in-person gathering since the pandemic. We will start the discussion promptly at 6 pm and expect to finish by 7 pm, including time for questions. Masks are required during the discussion.

Following the discussion, light refreshments will be available for those who wish to stay and mingle. Space is limited; reservations are required, and we do urge you to honor your reservation or let us know if you find you cannot make it.

RSVP Make reservations with Robin Larkin, robinlarkin@comcast.net, 240-669-6300, now, but no later than September 10. Registrants will receive information about how to secure a copy of the script, which is also available on Amazon and Dramatists Play Service.

Mlima's Tale is playing at 1st Stage September 15 - October 2, located at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons, VA 22102.

Information is coming soon about dates for talk-backs and post-show discussions currently being organized. For tickets and further information, see [1st Stage](#).

About Footlights

To subscribe to our email list send any message to FootlightsDC+subscribe@groups.io. See our website at www.Footlightsdc.org.

Donations to Footlights may be sent to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, Apt. L-07, Rockville, MD 20852.

See you soon at the Footlights!