

from the FOOTLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 2018

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

<http://www.footlightsdc.org>

Footlights to discuss Anat Gov's Oh, God on Monday, December 3

Please join us for dinner and discussion of *Oh, God* by Israeli playwright **Anat Gov**.

There's this old joke, God walks into a bar and. . . . No, this time God walks into a psychotherapist's office and he is depressed, suicidal. He gave people the power to decide their own lives and they have, in his name, happily killed each other over the years and destroyed much of the land, water and sky he created for their profit and enjoyment. Also, people talk more about Jesus, Mohamed and Moses than him. "I'm a big nothing," he tells the therapist. He wonders whether he should simply kill himself.

The psychotherapist is Ella, a single mother of an autistic teenager. If he were to kill himself, he would be destroying the world, she points out. He cannot do that because he promised Noah some time ago that he would not ever again kill off everybody and everything. God conceded the point, but not without revealing that Noah was a drunkard.

Ella is divorced, raising a son who does not speak, is a specialist in children's learning disabilities and has lost much faith in religion. Of course, she cannot at first believe it really is God, who insists that he wants only one session with her. But, she is a professional and soon there is rueful laughter and hurtful truths exchanged in her comfortable home office. A huge problem, of course, is that he is an orphan, he cannot blame parents for his problems.

Why did he choose her as his confidant? We'll find out in the course of this play on the ever present question of whether a secular, troubled people can believe in the traditional God.

Anat Gov, an Israeli playwright and television writer, composed the play in 2008. It went on tour for several years as a staged reading in English to college campuses in this country. It has had full stage performances the last few years and this run will be the first in our area.

Our speaker will be **Serge Seiden**, managing director and producer of Mosaic Theater Company. **Ari Roth**, the founder and artistic director of Mosaic, may also be able to join us. Both have often talked to us. Jerry Stilkind will moderate our discussion.

Oh, God is directed by Michael Bloom, and features Mitchell Hébert as God and Kimberly Schraf as Ella. Performances are at the Atlas Performing Arts Center, Lang Theatre, from December 12 through January 13, 2019.

Location. We will meet at **Alfio's La Trattoria**, 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 *Oh, God*. If you are coming to the dinner-discussion we can send you an e-copy of the play. Make reservations with Phyllis and then contact Robin Larkin (robinlarkin@comcast.net) for your copy. As always, we request that you not distribute the play to others.

Next Up: Monday, January 7, 2019, Footlights dinner-discussion of Paula Vogel's The Baltimore Waltz.

This season seems to be a playwright **Paula Vogel** revival. Round House recently produced her *How I Learned to Drive*; Arena Stage will do *Indecent*; First Stage, *A Civil War Christmas*.

Our play for **January 7** dinner-discussion is Vogel's *The Baltimore Waltz*. Guests will include **Susan Marie Rhea**, Keegan Theatre Artistic Director, who will be directing *Baltimore Waltz* and others. Stephanie Olshan moderates. At Alfio's, 4515 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD, on the ground

floor of the Willoughby Apartments. Reserve with Phyllis Bodin at phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768.

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. Copies of the newsletter are sent to the Footlights e-list and are also available at www.footlightsdc.org. To get a newsletter print copy contact Robin, robinlarkin@comcast.net or 240-669-6300.

Calendar:

- **Closing November 17**, performances of *Venus in Fur* at the 4615 Theatre Company, Highwood Theatre, 914 Silver Spring Ave, Silver Spring, MD. \$12 tickets for Footlights members using the code 4615FOOTLIGHTS. See www.4615theatre.com.
- **November 28 - December 23**, performances of *Gem of the Ocean* at Round House Theatre, 4545 East-West Highway, Bethesda, MD. 20% off tickets using the code FRIENDS20. See www.roundhousetheatre.org.
- **Monday, December 3**, 6:30 pm, dinner-discussion of *Oh, God* by **Anat Gov**. Our guest is **Serge Seiden**, Managing Director and Producer at Mosaic Theater Company. **Ari Roth**, Artistic Director, Mosaic, may join us. Jerry Stilkind moderates. At **Alfio's**, 4515 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD, on the ground floor of the Willoughby Apartments. Reserve with Phyllis Bodin at phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768.
- **December 12 - January 13**, performances of *Oh, God* at the Mosaic Theater, Atlas Performing Arts Center, Lang Theatre, 1333 H St, SE, DC. See www.mosaictheater.com/oh-god.
- **Monday, January 7**, 6:30 pm, dinner-discussion of *The Baltimore Waltz* by **Paula Vogel**. Our guests will include **Susan Marie Rhea**, Keegan Theatre Artistic Director, and director of *Baltimore Waltz* and others. Stephanie Olshan moderates. At **Alfio's**. Reserve with Phyllis Bodin.

Robin Larkin for **FOOTLIGHTS**
5800 Nicholson Lane, Apt. L-07
Rockville, MD 20852