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For Immediate Release

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**American Century Theater Replaces *Deathtrap*, *Harvey* for 2008-2009 Season;
Adds Broadway Thriller *Dr. Cook's Garden* and Classic *Life With Father***

The unavailability of licensing rights has forced The American Century Theater to alter its plans to produce Ira Levin's *Deathtrap* and the classic fantasy *Harvey* in its upcoming 2008-2008 season. Rights to both shows are now being withheld in the D.C. market in anticipation of as yet unscheduled national tours.

Artistic Director Jack Marshall announced that *Deathtrap*, the scheduled season opener, will be replaced by ***Dr. Cook's Garden***, another mystery/thriller by the same playwright, Ira Levin. "*Dr. Cook's Garden* is cast and in rehearsal," Marshall said. "Ira Levin is an underappreciated master of the stage thriller, and he died earlier this year. We wanted to salute his work, and this play, which played on Broadway in 1968, is a suitable substitute for *Deathtrap*...creepy, challenging, full of surprises. And it's really a more typical American Century Theater choice, because it hasn't been produced in the region before." *Dr. Cook's Garden*, directed by Ellen Dempsey, runs from September 9– October 4, 2008.

Needing a replacement for *Harvey* allowed Marshall to move in an American classic that the theater has wanted to produce for years: ***Life With Father***, by Howard Lindsay and Russell Crouse. The 1939 comedy set the record as Broadway's longest running show, and is still its champion for most performances of a non-musical, with over 3000. A warm, beautifully written play about an antic family, *Life With Father* has been described as a show that "every American has to see, like the Washington Monument and Niagara Falls." But this has become increasingly difficult through the years.

"TACT's strength has always been plays and musicals that everyone has heard of but nobody has seen," Marshall notes. "*Hellzapoppin*, *Lady in the Dark*, *The Cradle Will Rock*, *The Seven Year Itch*---*Life With Father* fits the mould. We are sorry to lose *Harvey*, but I cannot imagine a better replacement. I've seen several productions of *Harvey*. I've always wanted to see *Life With Father*." Rip Claassen, who was to direct *Harvey*, will direct *Life With Father*. "I'm thrilled," he says. "It's one of my favorite plays."

The revised 2008-2009 American Century Theater season:

- >September 9 - October 4: *Dr. Cook's Garden* by Ira Levin
- >November 25 - December 7 AND January 8-January 25, 2009: *Life With Father* by Howard Lindsay and Russell Crouse
- > December 10, 2008, to January 4, 2009.: *An American Century Christmas: A Holiday Revue.*
- > April 14 – May 9, 2009: *Native Son* by Richard Wright and Paul Green
- > July 30 to August 22, 2009: *Seascape* by Edward Albee

The American Century Theater performs at Theater II, Gunston Arts Center, 2700 S. Lang Street, Arlington, Virginia 22206. Subscription season packages are available. Friday or Saturday evening ticket subscriptions are \$130 each (\$170 value). Tuesday-Thursday evening, or weekend matinee subscriptions are \$115 each (\$145 value).

For tickets, subscriptions, group sales or information call 703-998-4555, email info@americancentury.org, or visit www.americancentury.org.

The American Century Theater is a 501(c)(3) professional nonprofit theater company dedicated to producing, great, important, and neglected 20th Century American playwrights. TACT is funded in part by the Arlington County Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, numerous foundations and many generous donors.

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