



*Theater you can afford to see—
plays you can't afford to miss!*

NEWS for immediate release June 2013

Contact Emily Morrison, 703-998-4555 (TACT Office)
E-mail pr@americancentury.org

AMERICAN CENTURY THEATER ANNOUNCES 2013-2014 SEASON

Comedy, absurdity, history, tragedy, baseball, courtroom drama, nostalgia and music: there's not a lot that the American Century Theater's upcoming 2013-2014 theatrical season doesn't have!

Come Blow Your Horn by Neil Simon (1961)

Directed by Rip Claassen

September 12-October 12

Opening night Thursday, Sept 12. Press Night Saturday, September 14, 2013

TACT's first-ever Neil Simon show is his first Broadway hit, *Come Blow Your Horn*, more famous today for its movie adaptation starring Frank Sinatra and the Academy Award-winning song it spawned, "High Hopes" ("Everyone knows an ant can't...move a rubber tree plant!"). A funny and warm Jewish family comedy with the trademark Simon gags and the dramatic sensibilities he returned to later in his career with his *Brighton Beach Trilogy*. Rip Claassen, who found all the laughs---and then some---in TACT's classic comedies *Life with Father* and *Visit to a Small Planet*, directs.

Bang the Drum Slowly by Mark Harris (1992)

Directed by Ellen Dempsey

January 10-February 1, 2014

Press Night Saturday, January 11, 2014.

Fans of baseball fiction know that Mark Harris's "Blue Sox" series is the best of the breed, with *Bang the Drum Slowly* the high point of that complex and realistic saga of star lefty pitcher Henry Wiggin. The moving and often funny story of how the terminal illness of one of Wiggin's teammates affects a major league baseball team was first adapted into a live TV drama starring a very young Paul Newman in 1956; the film version was Robert

De Niro's first major movie role. TACT will present Harris' stage adaptation of the book just in time for the start of spring training. Ellen Dempsey directs.

Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mama's Hung You In The Closet and I'm Feeling So Sad by Arthur Kopit (1962)

Directed by Tyler Herman

March 21-April 12

Press Night Saturday, March 22, 2014

Facetiously described by the playwright as "A Pseudoclassical Tragifarce in a Bastard French Tradition," this antic, absurdist black comedy about the most dysfunctional family imaginable was an Off-Broadway sensation, a movie, and one of the great farce titles ever. It also launched the career of one of America's most daring and versatile playwrights, and is just as lively and funny, if not as shocking, as it was fifty years ago. Tyler Herman will be the ringmaster of this farcical freak show.

Judgment at Nuremberg by Abbe Mann (2002)

Directed by Joe Banno

May 30-June 28

Press Night Saturday, May 31, 2014

It didn't reach Broadway until just a decade ago, but Mann's searing script had already been presented as an acclaimed live TV drama in the '50s and a star-studded Hollywood blockbuster in the '60s. Mann created a stage version of the courtroom drama for a limited, and much praised, Broadway run. The play is based on the true story of the war crime trials that followed WWII, and, like the post-Civil War Andersonville trial, their sole legal precedent (subject of the Saul Levitt drama that nabbed TACT its first Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding Production of a Play), the play raises important moral issues that remain relevant and controversial today. Joe Banno directs the large cast.

The Great American Century Songbook by Jack Marshall and Tom Fuller (2014)

Directed by TACT Artistic Director Jack Marshall

Musical Direction by Thomas Fuller

July 18-August 16

Press Night, Saturday, July 19, 2014

An original musical revue, commissioned for TACT's Robert L. McElwaine "Reflections" series, by the same team responsible for crafting TACT's *If Only In My Dreams*, *Hellzapoppin*, and *An American Century Theater Christmas*. A cast of seven of the area's brightest musical theater talents will present an evening of the best of American folk, popular and stage music from the first third of the 20th century, and some even earlier. Featuring classics from Jolson, Canter, Victor Herbert, John Phillip Sousa, and many more, with sing-alongs and bouncing balls, this is a show that celebrates some of the most memorable tunes ever written, now in danger of being forgotten.

###

Performance Information

The American Century Theater performs at **Theatre II, Gunston Arts Center**, 2700 S. Lang Street, Arlington, Virginia. Subscription season packages are available. More information is available at www.AmericanCentury.org, by email at info@americancentury.org, or by calling the theater at 703-998-4555. Special rates for active duty military, seniors, students, and groups are available. *Children under 18 are admitted free with an adult paying full price (space permitting, limit 5).*

Special Note – Audience Guides

The American Century Theater offers comprehensive Audience Guides for every production. Each includes detailed information about the playwright, characters, setting, period, costumes, scenic design, music, general theatre lore and links to other resources. They are available at the box office.

About TACT

The American Century Theater's mission is to promote 20th century theater as a vital part of our cultural dialogue. Our mission is based on the firm conviction that this theatrical repertoire -- influential and critically acclaimed dramas, comedies, and teleplays first produced during what Henry Luce called the American Century -- portrays a uniquely American vision that is vital to our shared cultural heritage.

The American Century Theater is a 501(c)(3) professional nonprofit theater company dedicated to producing significant 20th century American plays and musicals at risk of being forgotten. TACT is supported in part by Arlington County through the Arlington Commission for the Arts and Arlington Cultural Affairs, a division of Arlington Economic Development; the Virginia Commission for the Arts; the National Endowment for the Arts; and many generous donors.