

NEWS for immediate release May 2013

Contact Emily Morrison

703-998-4555 (TACT Office) or 323-363-4404 (mobile)

E-mail <u>pr@americancentury.org</u> and emilylovemorrison@me.com

Press photos http://www.americancentury.org/photos/

The American Century Theater presents Biography

By S.N. Behrman

Arlington, Virginia, May 2013: The American Century Theater will present the sprightly drawing room comedy, *Biography* by S.N. Behrman, June 7 to June 29 at Gunston Performing Arts Center's Theatre Two in Arlington.

"Behrman was one of the best dialogue craftsmen and wittiest playwrights America has ever produced, and *Biography* is his best comedy," says Jack Marshall, TACT's artistic director who has added a Behrman play to a company season three times now, the most by any great 20th Century playwright." His works aren't produced today because the world of American high society that he lampooned so cleverly disappeared long ago, but that doesn't make the plays any less entertaining, just as P.G. Wodehouse stories are still hilarious. The last time Steven Scott Mazzola directed a Behrman comedy for TACT (*The Second Man*), it was stylish, funny, fast-moving and memorable, and *Biography* is better."

The set up is classic Behrman. Renowned portraitist Marion Froude struggles with living in the manner to which she has become accustomed. Best known for painting the images of celebrated subjects, she accepts a lucrative advance from an editor in exchange for writing her potentially sensational memoirs. This news inspires a parade of anxious friends and lovers who seek to influence Marion's depiction of them in her autobiography.

Artistic Associate Steven Scott Mazzola directs an ensemble cast that includes Jennifer J. Hopkins in her TACT debut as Marion Froude, with Daniel Corey and Jon Townson in the roles of Richard Kurt and Leander Nolan, respectively. Frank Britton, Caitlyn Conley, Joe Cronin, Cam Magee and Craig Miller complete the ensemble.

Robert Gato Echanique is the Set Designer and the Props Designer is Lindsey E. Moore. Annalisa Dias-Mandoly is the Scenic Artist. Karin Rosnizeck is the Vocal Coach. Jason Aufdem-Brinke is the Lighting Designer and Alison Samantha Johnson is the Costume Designer. Ed Moser is the Sound Designer. Jonathan Hudspeth is Master Carpenter. Tré Wheeler is the Stage Manager and Charles Lasky is the Assistant Stage Manager.

Performance Information

EDITORS: The press is invited to the Saturday, June 8, 8 pm performance in Gunston Theatre II, 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington.

Biography opens Friday, June 7 and runs through Saturday, June 29, 2013 with a pay-what-you-can preview on Thursday, June 6 at 8 pm, and a pay-what-you-can performance on Wednesday, June 12 at 8 pm. There is a post-show talk-back on Thursday, June 13.

Regular show times are Thursday through Saturday evenings at 8 pm with Saturday/Sunday matinees at 2:30 pm (no matinee Saturday, June 8). Tickets can be ordered online at americancentury.org or by calling 703-998-4555.

Directions

The American Century Theater performs at Theatre II in the Gunston Arts Center, located at 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington VA 22206. Gunston is roughly ten minutes from downtown Washington DC and minutes from Arlington's Shirlington Village. Free, ample, well-lit parking is available. For directions, visit americancentury.org/directions.

About TACT

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.