



## **NEWS for immediate release September 2014**

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### **The American Century Theater presents the George Axelrod comedy**

#### ***The Seven Year Itch***

The American Century Theater launches its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season to laughter with the George Axelrod comedy, *The Seven Year Itch*, directed by Rip Claassen, opening Saturday, September 20 and running through October 11 at Gunston Arts Center's Theatre Two in Arlington.

*The Seven Year Itch* is an encore production for the company, which performed it in 2002. Artistic Director Jack Marshall chose the play to represent the best of the company's comedies over the past two decades.

"When we first did it, hardly anyone remembered that it had been a Broadway hit," Marshall says. "All they remembered was Marilyn Monroe and the white dress in the 1952 movie. Yet the play had audiences laughing from the start, as well as caring about the characters. This comedy is funnier, more complex, and racier than the classic film. I can't wait to see it again."

Axelrod was an American screenwriter, playwright, and film director—a comedy hit machine on Broadway and an Academy Award winner. *The Seven Year Itch* was his most famous play, the story of a bored husband in the midst of a mid-life crisis, played with panache by versatile (from the wacky space alien in *Visit to a Small Planet* to the relentless prosecutor in *Judgment at Nuremberg*) TACT favorite Bruce Alan Rauscher. With his wife and child away, Sherman sees his erotic dreams nearing fruition as a voluptuous neighbor stirs his passions . . . and conscience.

Says Marshall: "Another reason I wanted to see TACT do this show again is that it is so much better than most of the familiar comedies we see other companies do every year. Maybe the second time's the charm. If we can help get it recognized as the classic it is, that would be another achievement for the company's legacy."

TACT Associate Artist Rip Claassen directs, bringing his vaudeville background to yet another TACT production of a classic comedy. (Claassen's previous comedy hits for TACT include *Come Blow Your Horn*, *Life With Father*, and *Visit to a Small Planet*.) He directs a fine ensemble cast led by Rauscher as Richard Sherman and Carolyn Kashner as The Girl. The role of Helen is played by Emily Morrison. Eileen Farrell, Chanukah Jane Lilburne, Rachel M. Loose, and Rachael Murray play the women of Richard's imagination, with Steve Lebens as Dr. Brubaker and Ric Andersen as Tom Mackenzie. Ethan Ocasio and Xavier Wolf play Ricky.

The show's Production Manager is Ed Moser, with set design by Trena Weiss-Null, lighting design by Marianne Meadows, and sound design by Moser. The technical team is rounded out by Stage Manager Lindsey E. Moore, costume design by Claassen with the assistance of Catherine Casino, properties design by Hannah Schneider, and carpentry by Michael Salmi and Robert Teague.

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### Performance Information

**EDITORS: Please join us for our opening and press night on Saturday, September 20 at 8:00 pm** in Gunston Theatre Two, 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington.

*The Seven Year Itch* opens **Saturday, September 20** and runs through **Saturday, October 11, 2014**, with a **Pay-What-You-Can performance on Wednesday, September 24 at 8:00 pm**.

A **talkback** will follow the Thursday, September 25 performance.

**Regular show times** are Thursday through Saturday evenings at 8 pm with Saturday/Sunday matinees at 2:30 pm (no matinee Saturday, Sept. 20). Tickets can be ordered online at [AmericanCentury.org](http://AmericanCentury.org) or by calling 703-998-4555.

### Directions

The American Century Theater performs at Theatre Two 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](http://americancentury.org/directions)

### About TACT

The American Century Theater is a 501(c)(3) professional nonprofit theater company dedicated to producing significant 20<sup>th</sup>-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.