



NEWS for immediate release May 2014

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Press photos <http://www.americancentury.org/photos/judgment> (available after 5/29)

The American Century Theater presents Abby Mann's *Judgment at Nuremberg*

The American Century Theater will present the Abby Mann stage adaptation of his classic film and teleplay, *Judgment at Nuremberg*, May 30 – June 28, 2014 at Gunston Arts Center, Theatre Two, in Arlington.

This rarely produced but critically praised courtroom drama, adapted from the 1961 Academy Award–winning film and the live television drama that preceded it, covers the searing testimony and the difficult moral, ethical and legal issues presented by the less-publicized segment of the trials, which focused on the collaboration of German judges with the Nazi regime. What right do the victors in a war have to judge citizens of the losing side? What is the obligation of a judge who is asked to enforce immoral laws? How culpable were the judges who carried out genocidal orders? Were the criminals the Nazis, the judges, or the entire German people?

TACT Artistic Director Jack Marshall explains that *Judgment at Nuremberg* is a show that the American Century Theater was obligated to produce. “It is a large, complex and challenging play, and requires an audience with intelligence and intellectual curiosity,” he says. (Disturbing archival news reels of the death camps play an important role in the play.) “But it is stunning, and indeed an embarrassment, that this superb and important drama has never been performed professionally in the Washington area, where the Holocaust Museum and the World War II Memorial are located and where the sole judicial precedent for the Nuremberg Trials took place.” Marshall refers to the Andersonville war crimes trial in 1865. The American Century Theater’s production of the drama based on that trial, Saul Levitt’s *The Andersonville Trial*, was nominated for two Helen Hayes Awards.

Helen Hayes Award–winner Joe Banno returns to Washington to direct the production. “After directing *Andersonville*, I wanted a different style and approach for this play, so Joe was an obvious choice,” says Marshall. “He is smart and historically literate, and best of all, he’s not a lawyer. I’m around to provide the legal and ethical details (Marshall is a legal ethicist); Joe’s a master director. We’re a good team.”

The production has received a grant from the Arlington Community Foundation that will allow the company to hold a free teleconference with a panel of experts on the trial, special pre-show and post-show programs, outreach to schools, and an enhanced audience guide. Georgetown Law alumna Maia Falconi-Sachs will coordinate the various activities.

The all-star ensemble spans the history of The American Century Theater. It includes Craig Miller (recently impressive as the perplexed manager in *Bang the Drum Slowly*) in the role of Judge Haywood, played in the film by Spencer Tracy; Bruce Alan Rauscher as Colonel Parker, the prosecutor (Rauscher was also the prosecutor in *The Andersonville Trial*, receiving a Helen Hayes nomination for his performance); Michael Replogle (who starred as the heroic Juror 8 in TACT’s very first production, *Twelve Angry Men*) as defendant Justice Ernst Janning; and Steve Lebens and Mary Beth Luckenbaugh (most recently a stand-out couple in *I Do! I Do!*) in the pivotal roles played in the film by Maximilian Schell and Judy Garland, both of whom earned Oscar nominations. Karin Rosnizeck performs the Marlene Dietrich role as Frau Bertholt, and WSC Avant Bard Artistic Director Christopher Henley makes his American Century Theater debut in the disturbing role that won an Oscar nomination for Montgomery Clift. Even the smaller roles are filled by accomplished TACT veterans—including Vanessa Bradchulis (*The Country Girl* and the “Nightingale” of Tennessee Williams’ *Eccentricities of a Nightingale*), Kim Curtis, Tom Fuller (TACT’s Resident Musical Director), Larry Kolp, Tel Monks, Ellie Nicoll, Ron Sarro, Lyle Blake Smythers, and Jorge Silva. Paul Klingenberg debuts with the large ensemble cast.

The show is produced by Ed Moser. Lindsey E. Moore is the Stage Manager. The Set Designer is Patrick Lord. Sound Designer is Sean Allan Doyle and Lighting Design is by Marc Wright. The Master Carpenter is Michael Salmi. Costume Design is by TACT Associate Artist Rip Claassen.

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Performance Information

EDITORS: The press is invited to the Saturday, May 31, 8:00 pm performance in Gunston Theatre Two, 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington.

***Judgment at Nuremberg* opens Friday, May 30 and runs through Saturday, June 28, 2014, with a Pay-What-You-Can preview on Thursday, May 29 at 8:00 pm and a Pay-What-You-Can performance on Wednesday, June 4 at 8:00 pm.**

There are a number of **post-show talkbacks scheduled for this show**. The first talkbacks will follow the Sunday, June 1, 2:30 matinee and the Thursday, June 5, 8:00 performance. Please check the website for details.

Regular show times are Thursday through Saturday evenings at 8 pm with Saturday/Sunday matinees at 2:30 pm (no matinee Saturday, May 31). Tickets can be ordered online at 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

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.