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

The American Century Theater Presents
Lanford Wilson's *Serenading Louie* July 23–August 21

The American Century Theater adds another great American playwright to its repertoire when Lanford Wilson, author of *Talley's Folly, Burn This!,* and *Fifth of July*, will finally have one of his dramas grace the Gunston Theater II stage. The play is *Serenading Louie*, his delicate and engrossing examination of midlife regret and disappointment in suburbia. The 1970 play, while still largely unknown outside of the theater world and Wilson enthusiasts, has been building a reputation in recent years as a neglected masterpiece, and that placed it in TACT's sights.

"I love the play," says Steven Scott Mazzola, who directed TACT's acclaimed *Seascape* last season and who recommended *Louie* to the company. "I have frequently used excerpts from it in my acting classes. This is the kind of material—beautifully written, perceptive, connecting in different ways with each audience member according to his or her own experiences—that gives great actors a chance to shine." *Serenading Louie* takes its title from the famous Yale tune "The Whiffenpoof Song," which refers to "the place where Louie dwells." It is a song about "poor little lambs who have lost their way," and the characters in Wilson's drama indeed feel trapped in wistfulness, regret, and confusion. Now they are trying to understand where they took the wrong turn—and it is a harrowing and engrossing search.

Steven Scott Mazzola's directorial work for TACT includes *Seascape, Women Under the Influence, The Eccentricities of a Nightingale* and other standout productions. He and Producer **Sherri L. Perper** have assembled an impressive team of designers, including **Deborah Wheatley** (Set), **Frank Labovitz** (Costumes), **Andrew Griffin** (Lighting), **Matt Otto** (Sound), and **Suzanne Maloney** (Props).

Jason Beagle serves as Technical Director and Master Carpenter for the production. **Elena Maria Lower** makes her TACT debut as Stage Manager.

Those who saw TACT's 2008 production of Tennessee Williams' *The Eccentricities of a Nightingale* will remember the heart-wrenching performance by **Vanessa Bradchulis**, who

returns to Theater Two in *Serenading Louie*. Three other TACT veterans join her in an expert cast: **Theodore M. Snead** (*MacBird!)*, **Hans Dettmar** (*Stalag 17*), and **Robin Covington** *(A Piece of My Heart).*

Performance Information—

EDITORS: The press is invited to the show's performance Saturday, July 24, at 8 pm.

Serenading Louie opens **Friday, July 23,** and runs through **Saturday, August 21, 2010** with **pay-what-you-can preview performances on Wednesday, July 21, and Thursday, July 22, at 8 pm and an additional pay-what-you-can performance on Wednesday, July 28, at 8 pm.**

Show times are Thursday through Saturday evenings at 8 pm and Saturday/Sunday matinees at 2:30 pm. (There is no matinee on Saturday, July 24.) **TACT will also host a post show talk-back on Thursday, July 29.** All performances will be held at Theater II, Gunston Arts Center, 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington VA 22206. For more information, call 703-998-4555 or email us at office@americancentury.org.

Tickets for *Serenading Louie* range from $26 to $32 with special discounts for seniors (65+), students, and active duty military. TACT also offers various group discount rates of $14–$22. Children under 18 are admitted free with an adult paying full price (space permitting, limit 5). For more information on group rates, discount prices, or our special "pay-what-you-can" prices, email groups@americancentury.org.

Tickets can be ordered online at www.americancentury.org or by calling 703-998-4555.

Directions—

The American Century Theater performs at Theater 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 **http://americancentury.org/directions.php.**

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 funded in part by Arlington County through the Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources and the Arlington Commission for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and many generous donors.

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