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**The American Century Theater presents  
*Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You*  
By Christopher Durang**

The American Century Theater will present Christopher Durang's acerbic comedy *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You*, June 8 – July 7, 2012 at Gunston Theatre II in Arlington. Joe Banno directs.

Banno considers Durang's play more a documentary exposé than satire. "Savagely funny, the play feels strikingly contemporary in its dealings with social issues like abortion, women's rights, gay rights and domestic violence in the context of so-called 'Christian' compassion," says Banno. This is a theaterpiece that still delivers the laughs -- and chills -- a generation after it was written.

*Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You* premiered in New York in 1979 and won an Obie Award in 1980. The play's stark criticism of the Catholic Church ignited controversy around the country. Some conservative Catholics were offended by the play's stereotyping, and in St. Louis and Boston, major protests against the play occurred. Although unsuccessful, attempts were made in those cities to keep the play from being produced. And in St. Louis, two state senators attempted to pass a law penalizing theaters that refused to promise not to present plays audiences might find offensive.

Each performance of *Sister Mary* will be followed by a lively post-show discussion about issues raised by the play.

Helen Hayes Award-winning director Joe Banno makes his debut with The American Century Theatre. He has staged over 80 theatrical productions around the US, including contemporary plays at LA's Mutineer Theatre, NYC's Blue Heron Theatre and DC's Source

Theatre, where he served as artistic director from 1997 through 2006. Banno has also directed acclaimed Shakespeare productions at the Folger Theatre, Washington Shakespeare Company, and the American Shakespeare Center. Additionally, he directs opera and film and is a classical music reviewer for the Washington Post.

The role of Sister Mary Ignatius is played by celebrated DC actress Cam Magee. The ensemble includes Grant Cloyd as Gary, Tiffany Garfinkle as Diane, Anne Nottage as Philomena, Arturo Tolentino as Aloysius, and Colin Trinity as Thomas.

Steve Royal is the Set Designer, Ed Moser is the Sound Designer and Trena Weiss-Null is the Lighting Designer. Cheryl Patton Wu is the Costumer and Kevin Laughon is the Props Designer. Arthur Brill is Master Carpenter and Baron Pugh is the Stage Manager.

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### **Performance Information**

**EDITORS: The press is invited to the show's performance Saturday, June 9** at 8 pm in Gunston Theatre II, 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington.

*Sister Mary Explains It all For You* opens **Friday, June 8** and runs through **Saturday, July 7, 2012** with a **pay-what-you-can preview** on Thursday, June 7, and a **pay-what-you-can performance** on Wednesday, June 13. Each performance will be followed by a lively post-show discussion about issues raised by the play. **Actors/Industry Night** is Monday, June 25.

**Show times** are Thursday through Saturday evenings at 8 pm and Saturday/Sunday matinees at 2:30 pm. No matinee on Saturday, June 9. 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 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](http://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 Cultural Affairs Division of Arlington Economic Development and the Arlington Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and many generous donors.