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Press photos <http://www.americancentury.org/photos/murders/>

The American Century Theater presents Jules Feiffer's *Little Murders*

The American Century Theater will present Jules Feiffer's scathing comedy *Little Murders* January 13-February 11, 2012 at Gunston Theatre II, 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington.

Jules Feiffer has offered satirical commentary on American life for over fifty years, through cartoons, screenplays, stage plays and children's books. Originally gaining prominence as a cartoonist for *The Village Voice*, Feiffer shines an often sardonic light on the political, sexual and social facets of our culture.

Little Murders focuses on the violence that encircles and engulfs a New York City family. The action centers on daughter Patsy and Alfred, the new man she brings home to introduce to her parents and brother. It's a world where the sound of gunshots is de rigueur, heavy breathers regularly call, unseen visitors knock at the door..... and the Newquists are just trying to have a nice day. Meanwhile, Alfred has chosen not to fight back, something that Patsy is desperate to change. The epidemic of violence in 1960s New York and a citizen's choice to sink or swim form the basis for the dark comedy at the heart of *Little Murders*.

The play (and subsequent 1971 film) signaled a change in the portrayal of the contemporary American family. Television had given the world the Cleavers and the Bradys, but Feiffer introduced America to the dysfunctional comedic family. *All in the Family* and *Good Times* followed soon on its heels and set the stage for modern comedies like *Curb Your Enthusiasm* and even *Arrested Development*.

"One of the best reasons for revisiting great plays of the 20th century is that issues, social conditions and controversies keep resurfacing in slightly different forms," says TACT Artistic Director Jack Marshall.

“The current anxiety about the direction of America and social justice concerns is very reminiscent of the Sixties---the specifics are different but the stresses are similar. Stress is what makes great comedy, and the times have come around to make *Little Murders* as funny and eye-opening as it was when it premiered. That’s too bad for America, but good for audiences who need a laugh.”

Ellen Dempsey, longtime TACT Artistic Associate, is directing her seventh show for the company. The ensemble cast includes Robin Covington as Patsy and James Finley in the role of Alfred. Craig Miller plays the role of Carol, Emily Morrison plays his wife, Marjorie, and Evan Crump plays the role of their son, Kenny. Steve Lebens plays the Judge and Lt. Practice, and Bill Gordon is the Reverend Dupas.

Technical Director is Pete Roof, Patrick Lord is the Set Designer, Ed Moser is the Sound Designer and Liz Replogle is the Lighting Designer. Rip Claassen is the Costumer and Kevin Laughon is the Props Designer. GW Glover is the Stage Manager, Austin Byrd is Master Carpenter and Alex Levesque is the Wardrobe Mistress.

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Performance Information

EDITORS: The press is invited to the show’s performance Saturday, January 14 at 8 pm in Gunston Theatre II, 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington.

Little Murders opens **Friday, January 13** and runs through **Saturday, February 11, 2012** with a **pay-what-you-can preview** on Thursday, January 12, and a **pay-what-you-can performance** on January 18. TACT will also host a **post show talk-back** on Thursday, January 19. **Actors/Industry Night** is Monday, January 30.

Show times are Thursday through Saturday evenings at 8 pm and Saturday/Sunday matinees at 2:30 pm. No matinee on January 14. Tickets can be ordered online at 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 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 the Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Resources, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and many generous donors.