

from the FOOTLIGHTS

MAY 2019

"Life shouldn't be all work and no plays."

<http://www.footlightsdc.org>

Sooner/Later by Allyson Currin - Dinner-Discussion on Wednesday, May 8 at MeiWah

In *Sooner/Later*, a regional premiere by Washington's own **Allyson Currin**, single mom Nora finally gets the courage to re-enter the dating scene. Her teenage daughter tries to help but has reservations about the string of guys Nora meets (and misses) at a coffee shop. In the midst of the social mishaps and hijinks, an interesting fellow watches nearby and finds his way into the mix. When coincidence mixes with longing sprinkled with bits of a metaphysical twist, the results can be hilarious and captivating, which is how this new work has been described.

Part of the locally grown Mosaic Theater Company, *Sooner/Later* premiered at the Cincinnati Playhouse where Blake Robison is artistic director, and has been nurtured at Mosaic as an inaugural offering of the Trish Vradenburg Play Commission. Part of the nurturing includes having **Caleen Sinnette Jennings** as a dramaturg. Caleen's *Queens Girls* plays will be showcasing in repertory in Baltimore, and she will be joining Allyson as our guest. Debbie Jackson moderates.

Come join this fun discussion Wednesday, May 8 at MeiWah, located at 4457 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD - a short walk from the north entrance of the Friendship Heights metro stop on the red line.

MeiWah is on the second floor. There is an elevator to MeiWah from the street and garage levels. Garage parking is available for \$5 with a voucher from the restaurant. Enter the garage from Friendship Blvd or Hills Plaza. Some street parking may be open. Note parking in the surface parking lot next to MeiWah is limited to 2 hours.

Dinner is at 6:30, the discussion begins at 7:30 and ends by 9. The all-inclusive cost for dinner and the discussion is \$30. Cash or check, please – no credit cards, and no cash back. You may come at 7:20 for the discussion only for just \$5.

Dinner consists of two appetizers, five main dishes, orange slices and fortune cookies, served family style

at each table. Drinks are not included, but can be ordered and paid for individually. MeiWah has a bar for beer, wine and drinks. Please be on time. Food will be served around 6:45.

Make reservations with Phyllis Bodin, at phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768. Reservations may be made until **noon** on **May 8**. If you must cancel, the deadline is **noon Monday, May 6**. Footlights **will** be charged for no-shows, and we expect you to cover our cost.

Read *Sooner/Later*. We have the e-script available if you are coming to the dinner-discussion at MeiWah. Make your reservation with Phyllis, then contact Robin at robinlarkin@comcast.net. Please respect the playwright's wishes, and do not distribute to others.

The Oldest Boy: A Play in Three Ceremonies by Sarah Ruhl - Dinner-Discussion on Monday, June 10 at Alfio's

An American mother and a Tibetan father must make a life-altering choice that will test their strength, their marriage and their hearts. Two Tibetan monks seek their three-year-old son. The boy is the reincarnation of a revered Buddhist lama, and the monks propose to take the child away for a life of spiritual training in India.

"*The Oldest Boy* is a richly emotional journey filled with music, dance, puppetry, ritual and laughter - Sarah Ruhl at her imaginative best," says Spooky Action Theater Artistic Director Richard Henrich. "A meditation on attachment and unconditional love, the play shows us a world in which the youngest children are sometimes also the oldest and wisest teachers."

Our guests are **Richard Henrich**, director **Kate Bryer**, and choreographer **Tuyet Thi Pham**. John Glynn will moderate our discussion.

Our Monday, June 10 dinner-discussion meets at Alfio's, located at 4515 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD, on the ground floor of the Willoughby Apartments – a short walk from the north entrance of the Friendship Heights metro stop on the red line. Street parking is limited, but valet parking is available at

Alfio's. Dinner is at 6:30, the discussion begins at 7:30 and ends by 9.

The all-inclusive cost for dinner and the discussion is \$30. Dinner is a green salad, choice among six entrées, and spaghetti, green beans, bread and butter, ice cream, and tea or coffee. Alfio's salad bar may be substituted for the entrée if you wish. Cash or check, please – no credit cards. Wine, beer, cocktails are available from the bar. You may come at 7:20 for the discussion only for just \$5.

Make reservations with Phyllis Bodin, at phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768. Reservations and/or cancellations will be accepted until noon on the day of the dinner-discussion. If you must cancel, please let Phyllis know as soon as possible since the

restaurant needs a complete count. This is a seated, table-service dinner, not a buffet. We may be charged for no-shows and expect you to cover our cost.

Read the play. *The Oldest Boy* script is available for purchase. Samuel French and Amazon have copies in a variety of formats to order. Copies may be found in the DC Library, possibly in other local libraries, also. We may have copies available at the May meeting.

About Footlights

To subscribe to the Footlights e-list, go to groups.yahoo.com/group/footlightsdc/join, or e-mail any message to footlightsdc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. To learn more about Footlights, see www.footlightsdc.org.

Calendar:

- **Wednesday, May 8**, 6:30 pm, dinner-discussion of ***Sooner/Later*** by **Allyson Currin**. Guests: Playwright **Allyson Currin** and dramaturg **Caleen Sinnette Jennings**. Debbie Jackson moderates. At **MeiWah**. Reserve with Phyllis Bodin at phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768. Performances at Mosaic run from May 16 - June 16.
- **Monday, June 10**, 6:30 pm, dinner-discussion of ***The Oldest Boy: A Ceremony in Three Acts*** by **Sarah Ruhl**. Guests: Spooky Action Theater Artistic Director **Richard Henrich**, director **Kate Bryer**, and choreographer **Tuyet Thi Pham**. John Glynn will moderate. At **Alfio's**. Reserve with Phyllis Bodin at phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768. Performances at Spooky Action run from June 6 - 30.

Robin Larkin for **FOOTLIGHTS**
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