

from the FOOTLIGHTS

JULY - AUGUST 2019

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

<http://www.footlightsdc.org>

Monday, July 29: dinner-discussion of Harold Pinter's *Betrayal* at Alfio's

'Pinteresque' – resembling or characteristic of the works of the English playwright Harold Pinter, in particular by having a sense of menace and featuring dialogue marked by many pauses

Join us on July 29 when Footlights meets to discuss **Harold Pinter's *Betrayal*** – and find out how its playwright's name became a descriptive adjective.

Harold Pinter (1930-2008), playwright, screenwriter, director, actor, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature (2005), and a French Légion d'honneur, among many other awards and honors, had two wives, one son, and one famous liaison with a BBC television personality.

Betrayal (1978), considered one of Pinter's major dramatic works, is based on this extra-marital affair, which lasted seven years, and it involves the two people - both married to others - and begins when the affair has ended, and then only in the final scene do we learn how it all began.

The award-winning play opened on Broadway in 1980, with revivals in both 2000 and 2013, and yet another revival will open next month. Pinter adapted the story for a 1983 film.

We welcome back the creative team from the 4615 Theatre, just beginning its third season with in repertory productions of *Enron* and *Betrayal*. *Betrayal* will be directed by the brilliant Stevie Zimmerman and is set to run August 16 to September 8. The cast features Matt Dewberry as Jerry, Caroline Dubberly as Emma, and Jared Graham as Robert.

4615's founder and Artistic Director Jordan Friend spent the summer preparing to direct all of Shakespeare's history plays for a Virginia theater later this year, and is now getting ready to direct *Enron*, the Prebble play about the scandal and collapse of the major American energy company, which will open the 4615 season. *Betrayal* and *Enron* will be performed at Dance Loft, 4618-14th Street NW. This new location will give the company

a far more flexible space for its productions – and there is plenty of street parking.

Read the play: You can buy a copy, new or used, at local bookstores, borrow a copy from your local library or buy an e-copy from the usual vendors - Amazon, etc. For an interesting overview of the play and articles about Pinter and *Betrayal*, see <https://www.bl.uk/works/betrayal>.

See the play: Tickets will be just \$15 for Footlights. Use the code 4615Footlights when ordering. Call the box office (301-928-2738) or go online (<https://www.4615theatre.com/tickets>). Information on postshow discussion dates is TBD.

Our Monday, July 29 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.

August 14: Lynn Nottage's *Fabulation*, or the Re-Education of Undine

Although **Lynn Nottage's *Fabulation*** is one of her lesser known plays, it's still a relevant crowd-

pleaser and just closed in New York. The main character Undine has climbed far from her roots and caters to the vanity of African-American nouveau riche. When her gorgeous Argentine husband abandons her, and a series of unfortunate events force her to return to her roots penniless and pregnant, Undine must face the truth about herself to survive. Rather than collapse under the degradation of standing in line for social security benefits, Undine, reduced to nearly nothing becomes more self-aware, socially “woke,” and even kinder. The character’s name was apparently inspired by a heroine in Edith Wharton’s *Custom of the Country* – both characters try to scratch their way up societies’ cliffs seeking riches and fame only to get bashed with the reality of unexpected consequences.

With *Fabulation*, Nottage pokes fun at the societal strata of gloss, glamor and sparkles that can sometimes obscure basic core values, revealing “the folly of outrunning where we come from, and the challenge of returning home.”

Calendar:

- **Monday, July 29**, 6:30 pm, dinner-discussion of *Betrayal* by **Harold Pinter**. Guests: 4615 Theatre Company creative team. Mary Ann Wren will moderate. At Alfio’s, 4515 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD. Reserve with Phyllis Bodin at phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768.
- **Wednesday, August 14**, 6:30 pm, dinner-discussion of *Fabulation* by **Lynn Nottage**. Guest: Eric Ruffin, director. Debbie Jackson moderates. At Alfio’s. Reserve with Robin Larkin, robinlarkin@comcast.net or 240-669-6300.

Robin Larkin for **FOOTLIGHTS**
5800 Nicholson Lane, Apt. L-07
Rockville, MD 20852

Nottage’s plays cover a range of social issues from legacy in *Crumbs From the Table of Joy*, to her Pulitzer winners *Ruined* (2009) and *Sweat* (2017). To date, Nottage is the only woman awarded Pulitzer prizes for theater twice.

Fabulation is being produced at Mosaic Theater and opens mid-August. Order the script from Dramatists Play Service (\$10), Amazon (\$12) or other sellers.

Please join us August 14th at Alfio’s when Debbie Jackson will moderate the discussion with director Eric Ruffin as we explore issues of social consciousness and evolving self-awareness. Robin Larkin is taking reservations for this discussion only.

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.