

from the FOOTLIGHTS

APRIL 2009

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

<http://www.footlightsdc.org>

April 28: Karen Zacarías' *Legacy of Light*

Award-winning playwright, **Karen Zacarías**, will be joining Footlights on **Tuesday, April 28** at Alfio's to discuss *Legacy of Light*, her newly commissioned play by Arena Stage. Karen has been the recipient of many drama-related honors. In 1998, she was the winner of the D.C. Mayor's Award for Outstanding Emerging Artist. Karen's play, *The Sins of Sor Juana*, was the winner of the Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding new Play at the 2000 Helen Hayes Awards (Washington, DC). Karen's first visit with Footlights was to discuss *The Sins of Sor Juana* in 2006. Her play, *Mariela in the Desert*, was the winner of the 2006 Francesca Primus Award, the 2005 TCG/AT&T First Stages Award, the 2004 National Latino Playwrights' Competition, finalist for the 2004 Susan Smith Blackburn prize, and short listed for the 2005 Kesselring Prize. Karen is also founder and artistic director of Young Playwrights' Theater, an award-winning company that has worked with students in Washington, D.C.-area schools since 1995 to enhance literacy, spark creativity and resolve conflicts through playwriting.

As a woman with many professional accomplishments, and as a mother, Karen Zacarías epitomizes all women who are constantly balancing their aspirations and family life. In *Legacy of Light*, we are introduced to two brilliant women from different eras who are connected by the quest to create their scientific legacies while handling their maternal desires and obligations. Emilie du Châtelet is an 18th century physicist, and Voltaire's lover, whose unexpected pregnancy significantly impacts her scientific discoveries and her very life. Olivia Hasting Brown is a present-day astrophysicist from New Jersey whose inability to have children does not impede her desire to become a mother and the consequences her decision may bring. Millie Carrozzi is Olivia's surrogate, through whom the lives of both of these women interact and intertwine. *Legacy of Light* is an entertaining adventure, full of unexpected and poignant twists, reflecting the realities many women face in the quest to have it all.

Footlights member Barbara Reithmeier will moderate our discussion.

Alfio's is located on the ground floor of the Willoughby Apartments, 4515 Willard Ave., Chevy Chase, MD, 20815 (Phone: 301-657-9133) – two blocks from the Friendship Heights Metro. Street parking is limited but valet parking is free at Alfio's.

To reserve a place, contact Mark Gruenberg at 202-898-4825 or press_associates@yahoo.com. The cost is only \$12 for a choice among 5 entrees, plus salad, bread, beverage and ice cream, and includes tax and tip. We suggest a \$5 contribution to Footlights. Please arrive by 6:30 p.m. for dinner. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. and ends at 9-9:30 p.m. You may come for the discussion only, if you wish. There will be extra chairs.

Note: If you must cancel your dinner reservation, please let Mark know by noon on Tuesday, April 28, so we have an accurate count of reservations.

Reading *Legacy of Light*

We encourage you to read our plays for discussion prior to our dinner meeting. Our playwright has most generously allowed us to provide a draft script for purchase by Footlights members. If you would like a copy, please send \$5 to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, #L07, Rockville, MD 20852. Make your check payable to "Footlights."

See *Legacy of Light* at Arena Stage

We will see *Legacy of Light* on **Sunday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m.** (When else but on Mother's Day?) at Arena Stage in Crystal City, 1800 South Bell St., Arlington, VA, most easily reached by Metro. The Crystal City station, on the Yellow and Blue lines, is close to the theater. The station has only one entrance and exit. At the top of the escalator, there is a landing where you can continue up to the street level or turn right or left into the underground shopping mall. Turn left for the underground walkway, under the sign "Crystal City Shops at 2100 / Crystal City Marriott / 20th Street." Follow the walkway, go up a small set of stairs and veer left at the Optometrist's office. The theater is a few paces down on your right.

Tickets are \$22. There are just a few left at this advance preview price. Send your check, payable to FOOTLIGHTS, to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, # L07, Rockville, MD 20852. Let Robin know your check is on the way.

May 23 Play: *Rock 'n' Roll* by Tom Stoppard

This new play by Tom Stoppard has a misleading title. It's really a political play about life in Czechoslovakia while it was occupied by Soviet troops in 1968-1971. Like other Stoppard plays, it operates on several levels and across several generations, so it's a good idea to read

the play in advance. The play's primary concern is the relationship between art and politics. Stoppard ponders whether it's possible to have a free society without complete freedom of expression, however bizarre or banal that expression may be. A rock 'n' roll band, The Plastic People of the Universe, played an important part in determining the outcome. You'll hear their music, and that of other rock bands as well. Our friend Ted van Griethuysen has a leading role, even though he doesn't rock.

We will discuss *Rock 'n' Roll* on Monday, May 18 at Alfio's. Dinner is at 6:30; the discussion begins at 7:30. Our guests will be Studio Theatre dramaturg Sarah Wallace and Maryland University professor Brian

Richardson. Frank Pierce will moderate.

To reserve a place, contact Mark Gruenberg at 202-898-4825 or press_associates@yahoo.com.

See *Rock 'n' Roll* at Studio Theatre with Footlights

We will see *Rock 'N' Roll* on Saturday, May 23 at 2 p.m. at Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St., NW, Washington, DC (at P St.). Tickets are \$48 for center orchestra seats. A limited number are available. Send your check, payable to FOOTLIGHTS, to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, #L07, Rockville, MD 20852.

Calendar

- Sunday, April 19, 2:30 p.m., performance of *Native Son* at The American Century Theater, Gunston Arts Center, Theater II, 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington, VA 22206. Tickets: \$14. [Reserve with Mark.](#)
- Tuesday, April 28, 6:30 p.m., dinner-discussion of *Legacy of Light* with playwright Karen Zacarías. At Alfio's, 4515 Willard Ave., Chevy Chase, MD (301-657-9133). \$12 dinner - choice of 5 entrées, includes tax & tip. Reserve with Mark.
- Sunday, May 10, 7:30 p.m., performance of *Legacy of Light* at Arena Stage (Crystal City). Tickets: \$22.
- Monday, May 18, 6:30 p.m., dinner-discussion of *Rock 'n' Roll* by Tom Stoppard. At Alfio's.
- Saturday, May 23, 2 p.m., performance of *Rock 'n' Roll* at Studio Theatre. Tickets: \$48.

Reservations: Dinner-discussions – Mark Gruenberg, press_associates@yahoo.com or 202-898-4825.

Performances – Robin Larkin, robinlarkin@comcast.net or 240-669-6300. Send your check, payable to FOOTLIGHTS, to Robin Larkin, 5800 Nicholson Lane, #L07, Rockville, MD 20852. Please indicate for which play or plays you want tickets.

Robin Larkin *for* FOOTLIGHTS
5800 Nicholson Lane, # L07
Rockville, MD 20852