

from the FOOTLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 2019

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

<http://www.footlightsdc.org>

Footlights to discuss Mikhail Bulgakov's The Master and Margarita. (Edward Kemp Adaptation) Wednesday, February 13

The plot: The Master has written a play about the trial of Christ before Pilate. He is rehearsing it in Stalin's Moscow. Bureaucrats keep interfering, to his frustration. He meets Margarita and she loves him and his work. But he despairs of himself and sets fire to his work. Margarita saves a portion of the work as the Master is carried off to an insane asylum.

The devil under the name of Woland arrives with a troupe of demons. He takes offense with the bureaucrats since he was present at the original trial and they refuse to take him seriously. He uses his powers to dispose of the bureaucrats and to stage an exhibition of Black Magic which affirms his powers and further damages the bureaucrats.

Margarita wanders disconsolate and meets Woland. She offers to become his servant if he grants her wish. Woland agrees and gives her a jar of special cream to be applied to her whole body. She takes the cream and applies it. She is beautified and renewed and becomes a witch. She flies away on a broom. Her maid Natasha sees what happens and also applies the cream. She flies away on a bureaucrat turned into a pig. Woland offers to make Margarita the hostess at his annual Ball.

Margarita is a great success as hostess, the Master's manuscript is restored and he is joined to her as spirit. Although not granted complete forgiveness they are not damned.

The novel and the play are filled with humor and clever criticism of literary and other bureaucrats and very interesting spiritual speculations.

Our speaker will be **Allison Stockman**, Founding Artistic Director of Constellation Theatre and director of the upcoming production, which features Alexander Strain as The Master, Amanda Forstrom as Margarita, and Scott Ward Abernethy (son of

Footlights member Joanna Ward) as Woland. John Glynn moderates. *The Master and Margarita* runs at Constellation Theatre from February 1 to March 3. For tickets and more information about the play see www.constellationtheatre.org. Use code FOOTLIGHTS to get \$20 (plus fee) tickets. Discount only applies to standard \$35 tickets.

Please join us for dinner and a lively discussion of *The Master and Margarita* Wednesday, February 13, 2019. We will meet 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 Master and Margarita*. If you are coming to the dinner-discussion we can send you an e-copy of the play. Make reservations with Phyllis and then contact Robin Larkin (robinlarkin@comcast.net) for your copy. We request that you not distribute the play to others.

March 4: Dinner-Discussion of Jon Klein's *Resolving Hedda*

Can "Comedy" co-exist with a play by Henrik Ibsen? The Washington Stage Guild says a resounding YES. In the area premiere of Jon Klein's *Resolving Hedda*, the main character hates dying every night so she resolves to change her fate. One Los Angeles review calls the play a meet-up of *Hedda Gabler* and *Noises Off* while another describes a "boisterous new comedy."

Footlights has discussed many Ibsen plays, most recently *Hedda Gabler* in November 2015. But a comic Ibsen will be a unique experience. "In Klein's play, the writing is terrific and the playwright has taken what is familiar and classic and iconic and turned it completely on its head in the most creative, transfixing and delightful way." (NoHo Arts District)

Klein recently received the 2018 Michael Devereaux Award in Los Angeles for Best Playwriting, for

Resolving Hedda. He lives in the DC area and currently heads the MFA Playwriting Program at Catholic University of America.

Footlights will discuss *Resolving Hedda* on Monday, March 4, 2019 at Alfio's with **Steven Carpenter**, director of the play and associate artistic director of Washington Stage Guild. He will be joined by members of the cast, to be announced. Charlotte Baer will moderate our discussion.

Resolving Hedda will be performed at Washington Stage Guild March 21 - April 14.

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:

- through **February 9**, performances of *The Baltimore Waltz* by Paula Vogel at Keegan Theatre. Code FOOTLIGHTS20 gets you \$20 tickets. See keegantheatre.com.
- **February 1 - March 3**, performances of *The Master and Margarita* at Constellation Theatre. Use code FOOTLIGHTS for \$20 (plus fee) tickets. See www.constellationtheatre.org.
- **Wednesday, February 13**, 6:30 pm, dinner-discussion of *The Master and Margarita* adapted by Edward Kemp from the novel by Mikhail Bulgakov. Guest: **Allison Stockman**, Constellation Theatre Artistic Director. John Glynn moderates. At Alfio's. Reserve with Phyllis Bodin at phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768.
- **Monday, March 4**, 6:30 pm, dinner-discussion of *Resolving Hedda* by Jon Klein. Guests: **Steven Carpenter**, director of the Washington Stage Guild upcoming production. Charlotte Baer moderates. At **Alfio's**, 4515 Willard Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD. Reserve with Phyllis Bodin at phylbo@verizon.net or 301-986-1768.

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