

DEAR TACT SUBSCRIBER:

How can we thank you properly for joining us for the 2006-2007 season? There are more than 300 of you, one of the larger theater subscriber groups in the Washington area, so going door-to-door isn't very practical. You know that every available penny is put to work *on stage* by this company: TACT devotes a higher percentage of its financial resources to actual production costs than any other established Northern Virginia theater, so sending you a nice floral bouquet is out. No, the best way to thank you is by working harder than ever to give you a theatrical season to remember, bringing you remarkable shows that you might never see, were it not for The American Century Theater.



There's also a lot exciting news to report.

- The American Century Theater is one of 52 Washington area theater companies joining together to produce acclaimed playwright **Suzan-Lori Parks' 365 Days/365 Plays**, part of a national effort involving over 700 theatrical organizations. But only TACT is presenting its week of plays in the style of classic old time radio, with a live cast and live sound effects brought to the audience free of charge using modern teleconferencing technology. Each of the Parks plays written for December 18 through December 24 is 4 to 7 minutes long, and will be "broadcast" live at **8:00 PM, Monday, December 18**. Mark your calendars, and be sure to let your friends and family know about this unique event. You'll be able to find the call-in numbers and more details soon on our website, www.americancentury.org.
- Thanks to an unexpected vacancy in Theater Two, TACT's production of the Tony-winning drama ***That Championship Season***, directed by Artistic Associate **Ed Bishop**, will now open at Gunston on **March 30th**.
- We have dates and a terrific performing space for this year's "Rescues" offering, the **famous back-stage comedy/drama *Stage Door***, by Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman. There will be five performances, all free of charge, the evenings of **June 18 through June 23 and 2:30 matinees on Saturday the 23rd and Sunday, June 24**. The huge cast for this staged reading will be directed by **Terry Kester**, who gave TACT an outstanding production of *The Time of Your Life* two seasons ago. I recently received a phone call from George S. Kaufman's daughter Anne, who said she was thrilled we were doing the show but scolded me for referring to it as a "potboiler" in one of our press releases. She is quite right; I misused the term, which properly refers to a sensational and trivial work of literature, and *Stage Door* emphatically is not that. It is, in fact, perhaps the most entertaining and best-crafted play ever written about the theater, which you will discover when you join us in June.
- **Director Steven Mazzola** has a stellar cast for his collection of rarely seen one-acts written by female playwrights, famous and forgotten, ***Drama Under the Influence***, opening **February 23, 2007**. And TACT's upcoming production of **Eugene O'Neill's *Desire Under the Elms***, opening January 5, has been leaving observers stunned by the raw drama and powerful performances of the cast in rehearsals...imagine what the show will be like by January!
- Finally, we have talented new recruits who will make our company stronger and better. **Signe Allen**, one of the American Century Theater's original founders, is back with TACT as Director of Development. **Michael Switalski** has joined the staff in the critical job of Technical Director, and **Brian Crane** has taken over the position of Volunteer Coordinator. And **Wendy Kenney**, a long-time subscriber and friend of the company, is the newly elected Chair of the American Century Theater Board of Directors.

Thank you again for showing your faith in us and support of our work by subscribing in 2007. Have a wonderful holiday season, and we'll see you in the new year!

Sincerely,
Jack Marshall
Artistic Director

www.americancentury.org
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