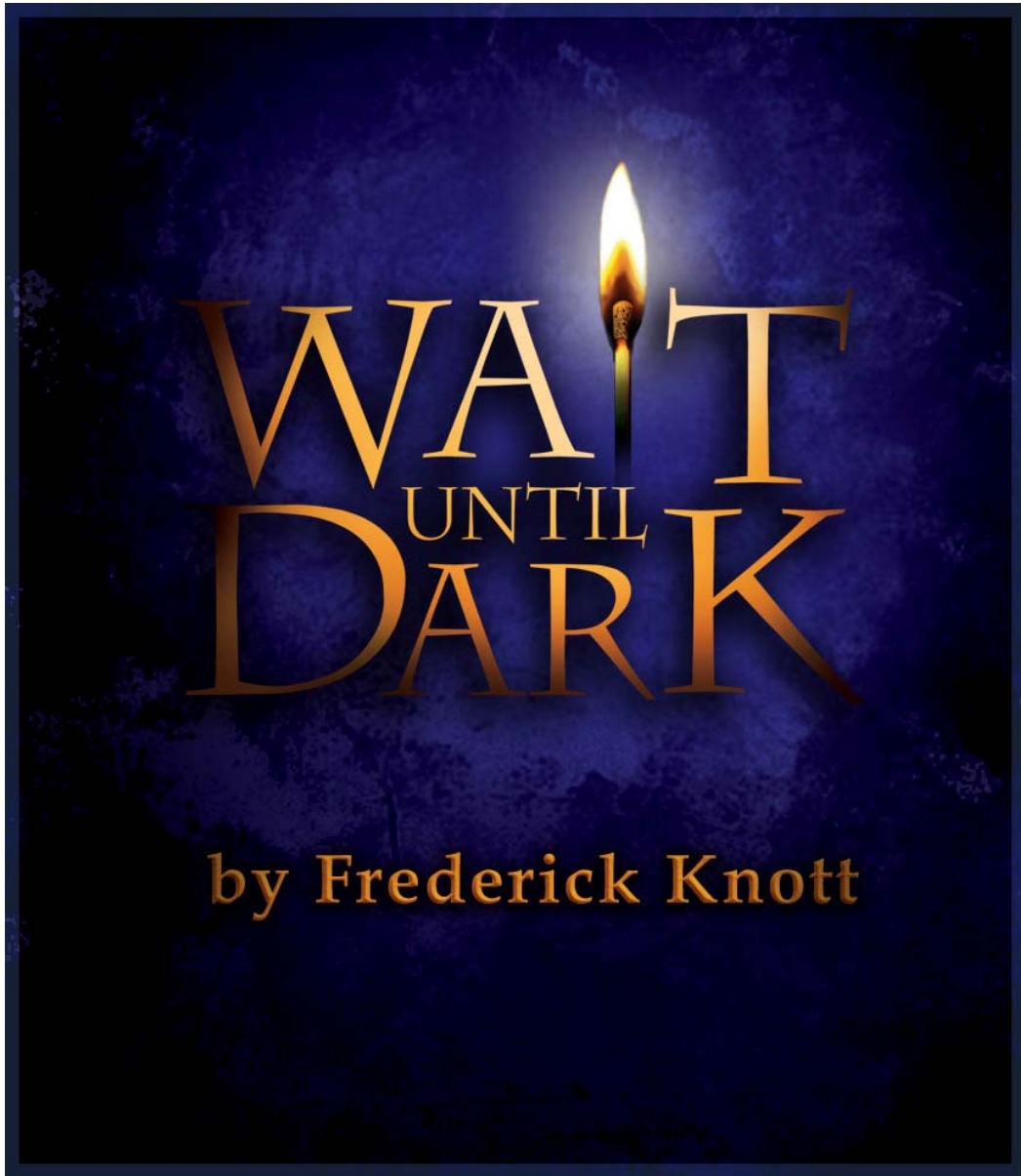


THEATRE JACKSONVILLE PRESENTS



STUDY GUIDE 2008-2009



Little Theatre. Big Voice.

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ABOUT THEATRE JACKSONVILLE

Since its inception in 1919, the Little Theatre (which became Theatre Jacksonville in 1972) has thrived in good times as well as through some of the 20th Century's worst – the Depression, a Second World War, political assassinations, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and most recently, the threat of terrorist activities. Today, Theatre Jacksonville has the distinction of being one of America's oldest continually producing community theatres and one of Jacksonville's most cherished cultural treasures.

At this writing, Theatre Jacksonville is celebrating its 88th season. The theatre still resides at 2032 San Marco Boulevard, a building that was named to The National Register of Historic Places in 1991. Maintaining the vision of the Theatre Jacksonville pioneers, the theatre produces a season of high quality plays and musicals as well as offerings like the annual Shakespeare production, a performing arts Training Center for youth and adults, and an annual Creative Arts Summer Camp for children. The theatre is also dedicated to providing opportunities for the Jacksonville community to become involved in the artistic process – whether onstage, behind the scenes, in workshops, in the classroom or in the audience. Since 1919, Theatre Jacksonville's volunteers, patrons and staff have been the backbone of the theatre's success.

Because of this vital community involvement, the theatre has forged a remarkable legacy that continues to make a long-lasting impact on the First Coast.

— Staci Cobb, Development Director

A GUIDE TO THEATRE ETIQUETTE

Theatre, unlike movies or television, is a LIVE performance. This means that the action unfolds right in front of an audience. The performance, though well rehearsed, is constantly evolving. The actors respond to the audience: laughter, clapping, gasps and general reactions. Therefore the audience is a critical part of the theatre experience. In fact, without the audience, the actors would still be in rehearsal!

As an audience member, it is important to observe certain etiquette so that you may enjoy the best theatre experience possible.

When the performance is about to begin, the lights will dim. This is a signal for the actors and the audience to put aside concerns and conversation and settle into the world of the play.

The performers expect the audience's full attention and focus. This is the time for the audience to think inwardly, not a time to express your thoughts aloud. Talking to neighbors (even whispering) carries easily to others in the audience and to the actors onstage.

There is no food allowed in the theatre: soda, candy, and other snacks are noisy and therefore, distracting. (Not to mention messy!)

Walking through the aisles during the performance is disruptive. Actors occasionally use the aisles and stairways as entrances and exits. The actors will notice any movement in the performance space.

Please use the restroom and take care of all other concerns before the show, or at intermission.

Cell phones, pagers, watch alarms and other electronic devices must be turned off before the performance begins. When noisy objects of this type go off it is very distracting for the actors and audience. Absolutely no text messaging.

Again, attending a live performance is a time to sit back and look inward, question what is being presented to you and be curious about worlds that are different than yours. As theatre artists we approach our audiences with respect and expect the same in return. Live theatre offers the opportunity to experience new ideas and discover people and lives previously unknown to you. Your open mind, curiosity, and respect will allow a whole other world to unfold right before your eyes!

WAIT UNTIL DARK

THE PLAY

Before the unforgettable film version starring Audrey Hepburn and Alan Arkin, this electrifying thriller was a hit on Broadway and London's West End. The suspense begins from the opening scene, as three sinister con men embark on a mission to find a very valuable doll in a dark Greenwich Village apartment. But they get more than they bargain for when the blind Susy Hendrix returns home and begins to suspect all is not as it seems. The deadly cat-and-mouse game builds to a heart-pounding "lights out" climax that's sure to keep you on the edge of your seat.

THE PLAYWRIGHT

FREDERICK KNOTT only wrote three plays yet his spine-tingling thrillers ran successfully on Broadway in the 1950s and 1960s, and have been standards in summer stock, regional theater and touring productions throughout the world.

His most famous script, "Dial M for Murder," about a man who plots the murder of his wealthy wife but has to improvise once she staves off his plan, was rejected several times before playing successfully on British television in the early 1950s. It then hit the London stage to rave reviews.

In 1952 the play opened on Broadway, and in 1954 was adapted by Knott into a film directed by Alfred Hitchcock, starring Grace Kelly and Ray Milland.

His second most popular play, "Wait Until Dark," ran for 374 performances on Broadway in 1966 and earned actress Lee Remick a Tony Award nomination for her portrayal of a blind woman terrorized by thugs. In 1967 the play was made into a popular film of the same name starring Alan Arkin and Audrey Hepburn.

Born on Aug. 28, 1916 in China to an English missionary family, Knott earned a law degree from Cambridge University and served in the British Army from 1939-1946, achieving the rank of major. His third play, "Write Me a Murder," opened on Broadway in 1961 and ran for 25 weeks.

THE CAST

Mike Talman..... ZDRAVKO ROZIC
Sgt. Carlino SCOTT PEELER
Harry Roat, Jr..... JASON HALL
Susy Hendrix TINA MORONI
Sam Hendrix..... R. SCOTT MCLEOD, JR.
Gloria.....AYLA COMBES / CAROLINE WERENSKJOLD
Policeman.....BROOKS STUDIER
Policeman..... TYLER ROSS

THE SETTING

The basement apartment in Greenwich Village. 1966.

THE DIRECTOR

RICK DESPAIN is a long time Jacksonville resident, actor, director, and teacher, but originally a small town farmboy from Oklahoma. Member of the LaVilla Middle School of the Arts faculty; member Florida Junior Thespian Executive Board and Florida Association of Theatre Educators. He began his theatre career in Jacksonville at Theatre Jacksonville acting in *A View From the Bridge*, and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolfe*, and directing *Shadowbox*, way back when. Richard is glad to be back and have a chance to challenge actors, and audiences again.

THE "THRILLER" GENRE

"Thriller" is a broad genre of literature, film, television, and gaming that is designed to hold interest by the use of a high degree of intrigue, adventure, or suspense. Thrillers are characterized by fast paced, frequent action, and resourceful heroes who must thwart the plans of more-powerful and better-equipped villains. Literary devices such as red herrings and cliffhangers are used extensively.

Thrillers often take place wholly or partly in exotic settings such as foreign cities, deserts, polar regions, or high seas. The heroes in most thrillers are frequently "hard men" accustomed to danger: law enforcement officers, spies, soldiers, seamen or aviators. However, they may also be ordinary citizens drawn into danger by accident. While such heroes have traditionally been men, women lead characters have become increasingly more common.

Thrillers often overlap with mystery stories, but are distinguished by the structure of their plots. In a thriller, the hero must thwart the plans of an enemy, rather than uncover a crime that has already happened. Thrillers also occur on a much grander scale: the crimes that must be prevented are serial or mass murder, terrorism, assassination, or the overthrow of governments. Jeopardy and violent confrontations are standard plot elements. While a mystery climaxes when the mystery is solved, a thriller climaxes when the hero finally defeats the villain, saving his own life and often the lives of others. In thrillers influenced by film noir and tragedy, the compromised hero is often killed in the process.

Similar distinctions separate the thriller from other overlapping genres: adventure, spy, legal, war, maritime fiction, and so on. Thrillers are defined not by their subject matter but by their approach to it. Many thrillers involve spies and espionage, but not all spy stories are thrillers.

Thrillers may be defined by the primary mood that they elicit: fearful excitement. In short, if it 'thrills', it is a thriller.

HEROIN AND THE ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE

The illegal drug trade or drug trafficking is a global black market consisting of the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of illegal controlled drugs. Most jurisdictions prohibit trade, except under licence, of many types of drug by drug control laws.

The illicit drug trade operates similarly to other underground markets. Various drug cartels specialize in the separate processes along the supply chain, often localized to maximize production efficiency and minimize damages caused by law enforcement. Depending on the profitability of each layer, cartels usually vary in size, consistency, and organization. The chain ranges from low-level street dealers who may be individual drug users themselves, through street gangs and contractor-like middlemen, up to multinational empires that rival governments in size.

The trade of drugs has existed for as long as the drugs themselves have existed. However, the trade of drugs was fully legal until the introduction of drug prohibition. The history of the illegal drug trade is thus closely tied to the history of drug prohibition.

HEROIN AND THE ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE (continued)

Although the opium poppy was cultivated in lower Mesopotamia as long ago as 3400 BC, it wasn't until 1874 when heroin was first synthesized by C. R. Alder Wright, an English chemist working at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, England. Wright's invention, however, did not lead to any further developments, and heroin only became popular after it was independently re-synthesized 23 years later by another chemist, Felix Hoffmann. Hoffmann who worked at the Bayer pharmaceutical company in Elberfeld, Germany. Bayer would name the substance "heroin", from the word heroisch, German for heroic, because in field studies people using the medicine felt "heroic".

From 1898 through to 1910, heroin was marketed as a non-addictive morphine substitute and cough suppressant. Bayer marketed heroin as a cure for morphine addiction before it was discovered that it is rapidly metabolized into morphine, and as such, "heroin" was essentially a quicker acting form of morphine. The company was embarrassed by this new finding and it became a historical blunder for Bayer.

In the U.S.A. the Harrison Narcotics Tax Act was passed in 1914 to control the sale and distribution of heroin and other opioids. The law did allow heroin to be prescribed and sold for medical purposes. In particular, recreational users could often still be legally supplied with heroin and use it. In 1924, the United States Congress passed additional legislation banning the sale, importation or manufacture of heroin in the United States. It is now a Schedule I substance, and is thus illegal in the United States.

TERMS AND CULTURAL REFERENCES



BLIND CANE : a traditional "white cane" also known as a "Hoover" cane that is primarily a mobility tool used to detect objects in the path of the user.

BRASS KNUCKLES : weapons used in hand-to-hand combat. "Brass" knuckles are pieces of metal, usually steel despite their name, shaped to fit around the knuckles. They are designed to deliver the force of a punch



through a smaller, harder contact area, which increases the likelihood of fracturing the victim's bones on impact.

DEFROST THE ICEBOX : a procedure, performed periodically on refrigerators and freezers to maintain their operating efficiency. Over time water vapor in the air condenses on the cooling elements within the cabinet. The resulting ice inhibits heat transfer out of the cabinet increasing running costs. Furthermore as the ice builds up it takes increasing space from within the cabinet - reducing the space available for food storage. Defrosting is achieved by temporarily removing all food from the cabinet, turning off power to the unit, leaving the doors to the unit open and waiting for the ice to melt and draining it appropriately. Defrosting is not as necessary now as it once was on older refrigerators and freezers made before the 1990's.

FUSE : a type of overcurrent protection device. Its essential component is a metal wire or strip that melts when too much current flows, which breaks the circuit in which it is connected, thus protecting the circuit's other components from damage due to excessive current.

GREENWICH VILLAGE : a largely residential area on the lower west side of southern Manhattan in New York City that was known in the late 19th – earlier to mid 20th centuries as the bohemian capital and the birthplace of the Beat Movement.

TERMS AND CULTURAL REFERENCES (continued)

HAMMACHER SCHLEMMER : A famous New York City hardware store famous for having the longest running mail order catalog in the US.

HORSE : a slang name for heroin.

LOAN SHARK : One who lends money at exorbitant interest rates, especially one financed and supported by an organized crime network.

MR. CLEAN : the brand name of one of the best-selling household cleaners owned by Procter & Gamble and created in Costa Rica.



PAROLE : the supervised release of a prisoner before the completion of his/her sentence. This differs from amnesty or commutation of sentence in that parolees are still considered to be serving their sentences, and may be returned to prison if they violate the conditions of their parole. Conditions of parole often include things such as obeying the law, refraining from drug and alcohol use, avoiding contact with the parolee's victims, obtaining employment, and maintaining required contacts with a parole officer.

PHONE BOOTH : a small structure furnished with a payphone and designed for a telephone user's convenience. Such a booth usually has a door to provide privacy and a window to let others know if the booth is in use. Phone booths are now seen less and less due to the advent of cell phones.



UNGUENTINE : a famous burn-relief ointment from the 1950's.

SUGGESTED READING

Dial "M" for Murder by Frederick Knott, jr.

The Thirty-Nine Steps by John Buchan

The Spy Who Came in from the Cold by John le Carrè

From Russia with Love by Ian Flemming

The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells

SOURCES

slick.org | merriam-webster.com | wikipedia.com | rd.com | deamuseum.org | hammacher.com
whitehousedrugpolicy.com | home-and-garden.webshots

ACTIVITY PAGES

Wait Until Dark Word Search

P M X S H A H B R G I S A M D S T N M A
 A I R O L G E T R O T I A M T S N E C A
 G L T C B R K O O X A X L H O E W L M M
 O A T T L E C O N O R T G R G N A O U U
 S J S G O E C C I K B I F A V K I R R D
 R B A O R N A I L R L E W E X R L A D A
 S R O I L W K N R A D S N M C A R P E T
 I A E S L I D K A D K E P O X D B R R A
 C S C X A C N G C L T H B O H U E C S L
 A S I L R H I E O I O R B T S P R G E M
 E K L C A V I V A T R E E S P I E N R A
 H N O O H I B N O N S E T T M O I L G N
 E U P N T L B G S U R A D I U D P O E C
 I C T M R L R R F T T T N E L N H R A T
 A K N E I A K S S I U A P A R T M E N T
 E L K N P G E N O A L D R H A F O L T B
 I E D H O E A N I W F E I E G D O L L I
 V S E R D G T E E F G E D O U A A I L N
 D R S E O H S Y K A E U Q S S O N R T I
 S X I R D N E H Y S U S G U R D H H T N
 O R G E N K O E B O D Y E N O M A T C H

Word List

Amonia	Criminal	Geraldine	Knife	Photographer	Sugar lumps
Apartment	Darkness	Gloria	Lights	Police	Susy Hendrix
Blind	Death	Greenwich	Lisa	Roat	Talman
Body	Defrost	Village	Match	Safe	Telephone
Brass knuckles	Doll	Groceries	Money	Sam	Thriller
Bus station	Drugs	Grogan Street	Mr. Clean	Sergeant	Tripod
Carlino	Frederick Knott	Icebox	Murder	Sixties	Vetetian blinds
Carpet	Fuse box	Jail	Parole	Squeaky shoes	Volkswagen
Con men	Gasoline	Key	Phone booth	Studio	Wait Until Dark