

# HERITAGE HUNT LITTLE THEATER April 2021 PLAY TIME



HHlittletheater.org

## Dates to Remember

Thursday, April 15---General Meeting  
via Zoom at 7 p.m. followed by Theater  
Trivia.

Thursday, April 29—Discovery  
Theater via Zoom at 7 p.m. More  
information inside

April (entire month)---Scavenger Hunt  
in Heritage Hunt. See details inside.

Thursday, May 20---General Meeting  
via Zoom at 7:00 pm, followed by Drama-  
After-Dark

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## *A Message from Our President*



Dear Friends,

We are now experiencing the full glory of Spring with trees growing, flowers blooming, more daylight and the feeling that hope springs eternal.

Our wonderful HHLT group has produced its own Spring growth this year! Here's what has been happening:

1. Monthly General Meetings and Activities
2. Drama After Dark series
3. Discovery Theater
4. HHLT Scavenger Hunt open to our entire community
5. Free membership this year for current and new members

We hope you have been enjoying these offerings. These activities and events are developed with safety in mind while providing you the theater experience you so dearly love.

If you haven't "tuned in" yet, please plan to do so this month. The April Scavenger Hunt is in full swing and our April meeting will test your Trivia knowledge!

Happy Spring

Sincerely,

Val

### **April Scavenger Hunt**

Aren't we ALL ready to get outdoors and enjoy the spring weather?? Here's a way to see our lovely neighborhood and inhale the fresh air of spring. For the month of April, HHLT is inviting everyone in the HH Community to take part in a fun activity and possibly win a couple of free tickets to our next live production.

#### **HOW IT WORKS;**

1. Copy or tear out the entry form from the April Heritage Hunt Horn. Write your name and contact details at the top.
2. Drive or walk around the HH community, visiting all the streets named on the entry form and note the number of the house where you find the item listed. Each item is visible from the street in front or at the side of the house. Take your time. Enjoy the fun. You have the month of April to complete your task.
3. Once you have completed the list, identify ONE item from the list which recalls a film or play you have seen and enjoyed, or which has a special meaning for you. Tell us which item it is and which film or play it brings to mind. If you have a story to share, please feel free to do so. You may attach additional paper to your entry if you need to, but please write your name on each sheet and attach it securely to your entry form.
4. Deliver your completed entry form to 6528 Box Elder Loop. Place the entry form in the box you will find on the front porch.
5. On May 1<sup>st</sup> we will empty the box and identify all correct entries. Three correct entries will be randomly selected for a prize and the recipients will be informed via the contact details provided. A list of the winners will be posted in the June Heritage Horn.

NB: All items are to be found on the quieter streets in the community. Please take care when driving around and be aware of traffic behind you if you are driving slowly!

## APRIL IS FOR TRIVIA



The beautiful spring weather is putting us into the mood for a little fun and games. . .

enough of winter and covid!

After our general meeting on Thursday, April 15, at 7:00 pm stay on Zoom and be prepared for a batch of Theater and Entertainment Trivia questions. No fair using Alexa or Google or any of our other techie friends. All you need is a piece of paper and pencil. Answers will be tallied up at the end of the meeting.

Be prepared for a surprise!



## Discovery Theater



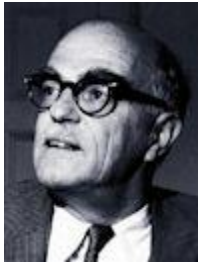
The title says it all. At our next HHLT Discovery Theater, we will be watching, then discussing together, a high school theater production that is presented on YouTube.

Yes, I wish that we could all watch, then discuss, the classic 1938 movie starring the great Lionel Barrymore and Jimmy Stewart but then we wouldn't find much to critique. That film won two Academy Awards for Best Picture and Best Director (Frank Capra).

The story, based on a Pulitzer Award winning play written by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, is about a quirky and fun-loving family colliding with a prominent snobby family. It is a fun romantic comedy with Grandpa's wisdom and positive spin on life being the cohesive bond of the entire cast. Live life to the fullest!

We will be discussing all aspects of this production including some movie trivia that I discovered. This show is from a 2013 Village Christian Arts performance from Sun Valley, California. The production can be found online at [dramanotebook.com/watch-free-plays-online/](http://dramanotebook.com/watch-free-plays-online/). Go to the section for high school students and click on the title. Please join us on Thursday, April 29 on Zoom at 7:00 pm. Bob Bowman will provide the Zoom link. Be looking for it on Wednesday, April 28.

Andy Mays, Discussion Leader



## Thornton Wilder, American Master Playwright

Once again Terry Teachout, WSJ's Theater Critic, has written an excellent article about a classic of American theater: Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* and its playwright, an icon of American theater. He has taken two new works about Wilder and woven their messages into an

interesting and informative piece that broadens our understanding of the writer and his works.



The first is entitled "It Goes So Fast: *Our Town* by Al Hirschfeld," an online collection of drawings by the well-known caricaturist who drew over 10,000 Broadway subjects during his

career. His drawings from four major productions of *Our Town* can be viewed at [alhirschfeldfoundation.org/exhibitions](http://alhirschfeldfoundation.org/exhibitions). Teachout describes the caricatures as possessing "vaulting, swooping energy which embodied the personalities of his subjects. . . no one has been able to take his place."

The second work in Teachout's article discusses the recent book by Howard Sherman, "Another Day's Begun: Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Sherman interviewed hundreds

of artists and actors who took part in a dozen productions since 2000. One production from 2009 is regarded by Teachout as "the best production of any play that I have seen."

Another production, surely one of the most unique, was staged at Sing Sing Correctional Facility. Professional women actors played the female roles. The male roles were played by inmates who "initially found the play irrelevant to their present lives and past experiences." By the end, however, "hardcore killers, rapists, robbers, everyone leaves with tears in their eyes."

Teachout concludes, "Masterpieces are universal. They speak to all humans in all conditions, no matter what our race or religion or gender or politics may be, and in so doing have the miraculous power to make us one."

Terry Teachout  
WSJ April 7, 2021

Henry Fonda 1969



Paul Newman 2002





## LINCOLN CENTER THEATER

### ***PRIVATE REELS: FROM THE LCT***

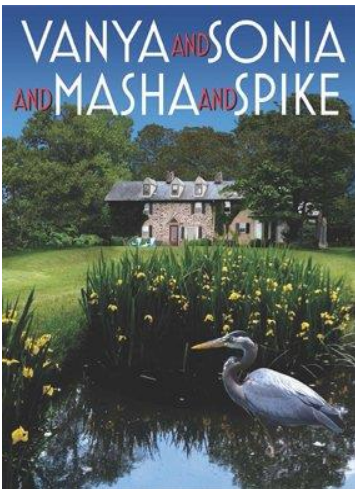
**ARCHIVES** will allow audiences the opportunity to experience past, award-winning LCT productions in full. Recorded during a performance with the resulting excerpts used for promotional purposes, it was never intended that the productions would be shown in their entirety. The newly edited footage of the performances will give viewers the opportunity to revisit or discover these LCT shows in full.

### **VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE**

Streaming FREE on Broadway on Demand through Sunday, April 11

Stream our production of [VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE](#) (2012, Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater), by **Christopher Durang**, directed by **Nicholas Martin**, featuring a cast which included **Genevieve Angelson, Shalita Grant, Billy Magnussen, Kristine Nielsen, David Hyde Pierce** and **Sigourney Weaver**. This Tony® Award-winning Best Play (2013) takes 3 mismatched siblings (played to the hilt by Kristine

Nielsen, David Hyde Pierce and Sigourney Weaver), adds 1 boy toy (Billy Magnussen), throws in themes from Chekhov, pours it all into a blender and mixes it up. The result? An utterly hilarious, touching work by a master of comedy.



Following our 2021 Zoom schedule, we will be enjoying another Readers Theater after our **May General Meeting, Thursday, May 20**. Currently we are planning to read an episode entitled “The Engagement” from the TV series *Golden Girls*. In addition to the four main female roles, there are three male roles. If you would like to participate, please email Kathryn at [geneofva@gmail.com](mailto:geneofva@gmail.com).



**A Request.** . . If you have scripts from the January and March Drama After Dark activities (*The ABC Murders* or *The Meanest Man in the World*), please contact Kathryn. We would like to save the scripts for future use. If you have discarded them, no problems. Thanks.

**This review which appeared on April 7 in DC Metro Theater Arts was written by Laura Mills, Andy Mays's very talented daughter.**

## **A theater fan tests Synetic's impressive new streaming service**

The first of its kind in the DC area, the company's custom app sets a new standard for accessibility and original content.

By  
[Laura Mills](#)

he award-winning [Synetic Theater](#) is known for innovative interpretations of classic stories, most notably for their Wordless Shakespeare adaptations. As theaters pivoted to virtual performances and original content, Synetic took it a step further by creating its own streaming service — Synetic Streaming — the first of its kind in the DC Metro area

I had the opportunity to review this new streaming service and I am very impressed. The web-based platform is easy to maneuver, especially for those already accustomed to streaming platforms. After entering basic information, it gives the options for a monthly plan of \$9.99 or a yearly plan for \$99.99. There is also an option for à la carte rentals if there is a production in particular you're looking for. I chose the monthly plan and entered my credit card information.

Within moments, I was able to access Synetic's full library of streamable content featuring a strong archive of previous performances as well as a trove of new content. I watched on my personal laptop and also tested it on my mobile phone — both devices were able to stream right away with no lagging. The streaming service is also compatible with Roku and Apple TV.

Based on the trailers provided on the home screen, I decided to start with [Beauty and the Beast](#) from 2014. The opening sequence of the stage production is stunning on the screen. The use of shadow puppetry, silhouettes, dramatic lighting, and music were engaging and cinematic. The story transitions to the filmed staging and still holds an impact, even virtually. The audio quality is not ideal, but it does allow viewers to feel the presence of a live



audience. Subtitles are provided and I found them helpful, not distracting.

I wanted to try one of Synetic's Wordless Shakespeare productions and saw that [The Tempest](#) was among the available options. I saw this production during its 2013 run and it still stands out as a lasting theatrical experience. The technical aspects of this production are mesmerizing, from the beautifully dramatic lighting and sets to the incredible feat of submerging a stage in water. I wanted to see if this remounted 2019 production was able to translate for virtual viewing — and to my delight it did! The audio was recorded from the house, but doing so allows the at-home viewer to hear the splashing of the water and audience reactions. It's a worthy trade-off, especially as the



water creates its own soundscape when paired with the music and effects.

I then chose content specifically developed for this new streaming service — one of nine short films currently available. I started with [\*All the World's a Stage\*](#) featuring long-time Syneticon Scott Brown reinterpreting a moment of his performance in the 2016 production of *As You Like It*. The 18-minute piece is presented as a short movie rather than a filmed theatrical performance, and showcases the strengths and stylings that Synetic audiences expect. It is beautifully performed and produced as a partnership of stage and screen. The audio issues I experienced in the previous two productions were not an issue as it was produced as a film rather than a recorded live performance.

I'm looking forward to using this streaming service to view the full library available from Synetic. Their 2015 production of *Much Ado About Nothing* was most recently added and is next on my watch list, followed soon by their critically acclaimed 2014 production of *Hamlet*.

The fact that audiences now have direct access to Synetic's impressive archives in addition to new original films is groundbreaking. Accessibility for the theater community is more important now than ever before. It's understood that online viewing doesn't provide the same visceral experience as live theater, but virtual theater allows access to those unable to participate in an in-person experience, whether it be due to financial, geographical, or personal reasons.

Streamable content will only grow in popularity, even as theaters slowly reopen to live audiences. The Synetic Streaming platform in particular allows this innovative group to explore the next chapter of their story — original film making. I am excited to see their continued storytelling through filmmaking, previously recorded performances, and (hopefully soon) live theatrical performances.

#### [Laura Mills](#)

**Laura Mills** is a writer and marketing consultant in Northern Virginia. She is on the Board of Directors of The ARTfactory in Virginia and works with local performing arts groups and schools on their

marketing and theater needs. Laura also performs regularly in Northern Virginia — most notably in her BroadwayWorld-nominated role of Doralee Rhodes (Dolly Parton) in *9 to 5: The Musical* at the Hylton Performing Arts Center. [www.laurarosemills.com](http://www.laurarosemills.com)

### **Heritage Hunt Little Theater**

#### **Zoom General Meeting**

**March 18, 2021**

**7pm**

**President's Comments:** Val welcomed members to the meeting. She asked for approval of the Feb. 18, 2021 General Meeting Minutes. They were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** Kathy reported that we had \$4684.80 in the bank as of end of Feb, 2021.

**Membership:** MaryJane got a notice of a new member and she'll reach out to them.

**Activities:** The April meeting will be a treasure Hunt in and around Heritage Hunt. A prize is to be awarded for the best answers. HH BOD is allowing all HH residents to join our Scavenger Hunt.

**Communications:** Kathryn reported that she will send out the [PlayTime](#) newsletter. She will have an article in the April Horn. The Playtime contest winners was Tom Taggart. Reminder that Thurs. March 25 at 7 we will be discussing the play Katie Roche on Zoom.

**At Large:** May 2021 play contract cancelled with HH Clubhouse. Old Time Radio scheduled for Fall 2021.

Thanks to John Bisaga for sound effects for tonight presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm. Val then turned the meeting over to Kathryn Schmiel for our March program, Meanest Man in the World.

**Respectfully submitted:** Joan Turner, Secretary



*April Showers Bring . . .  
 . . . May Flowers*



a.



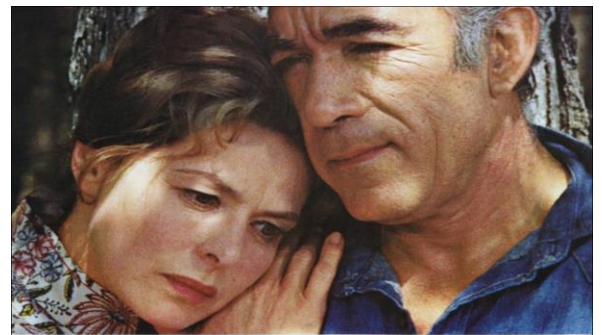
e.



b.



f.



c.



g.



d.



Can you match these pictures with their rainy movie titles?

1. Caught in the Rain
2. Rain Man
3. A Walk in the Spring Rain
4. Singin' in the Rain
5. The Rain People
6. A Hatful of Rain
7. Purple Rain



