

the actors company

TACT theatre

25

2017/2018 ANNIVERSARY SEASON



25th SILVER Anniversary Season



2017/2018 ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Our 2017/2018 Season will be a year-long celebration of **TACT'S Silver Anniversary**: 25 years of rediscovering and reimagining great plays and nurturing new ones; of bringing playwrights, actors, and audiences together in the most intimate and direct manner; and of championing the ineffable connection in the shared experience of creating theatre together.

This Fall we have the distinct honor of presenting the World Premiere of a never-before-seen play by Sir Noël Coward, *Salute to the Brave*. Our long-time subscribers will remember another TACT World Premiere – and our first full production – of Mr. Coward's *Long Island Sound* back in 2002. TACT has come a long way since then, and so has the world. Or has it? This potent political drama was written to encourage the U.S. to enter into World War II. And then guess what happens next...

In the Spring, we'll harken back to our early roots by presenting a piece created especially for the company. Founding Executive Artistic Director, Scott Alan Evans (who co-created and directed *The Triangle Factory Fire Project* for TACT), with playwright Jeffrey Couchman, has co-authored a new work based on the short stories of Damon Runyon (*Guys and Dolls*). The play, *Three Wise Guys*, an audience favorite at our 2017 newTACTics New Play Festival, is a highly theatrical comedy, and will feature a large cast including many of your company favorites.

We are just as excited about the 2017/2018 Salon Series: four plays by masterful 20th-century American playwrights: *Holiday* by Philip Barry; *The Dining Room* by A. R. Gurney; *Laughter on the Twenty-Third Floor* by Neil Simon; and *Stage Door* by Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufmann. But this popular series is only available to Season Subscribers, so we urge you to book your membership now and join us for our Silver Anniversary season. We think it will be pure Gold.

SCOTT ALAN EVANS Executive Artistic Director
NORA CHESTER & JEFFREY C. HAWKINS
Associate Artistic Directors

Top: Justine Salata, Richard Thieriot and Cynthia Darlow in *She Stoops to Conquer*.
Bottom: Ted Koch and KK Woggie in *The Gravedigger's Lullaby*.
Photo by Mairielle Salon

THREE WISE GUYS

JUMP INTO THE PASSENGER SEAT OF THIS BIG-HEARTED GETAWAY CAR AS IT SPEEDS AWAY WITH LOVE, LAUGHS, AND EVEN SANTA CLAUS!

A New Comedy

by **SCOTT ALAN EVANS**
& **JEFFREY COUCHMAN**

Based on the stories of
DAMON RUNYON

Directed by **SCOTT ALAN EVANS**
FEB 27 - APR 14, 2018

WORLD PREMIERE
Beckett Theatre at Theatre Row

EFFERVESCENT COMEDY

It's Christmas Eve, 1932. Three New York guys, each preoccupied with his own particular problems and not especially fond of the season, find themselves in Good Time Charley's speakeasy on West 46th Street. As the bootleg liquor flows, the guys agree to band together and take to the road to avoid all the hubbub of the holiday. Besides, notorious racketeer Heine Schmitz is after them, and they have to get out of town. Over one long life-changing night, they make some big decisions while inadvertently spreading good cheer around and about to one and all.

Three Wise Guys was workshopped and developed through the new TACTics New Play Program.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

TACT Executive Artistic Director **Scott Alan Evans** has teamed up with writer **Jeffrey Couchman** to create this buoyant comedy about moving on. Based on two short stories by the American newspaperman and short story writer **Damon Runyon** (*Guys and Dolls*), this World Premiere production features some of your favorite TACT Company members and lots of high-speed theatrical fun!

FOR SINGLE TICKETS:
Go to **TELECHARGE.COM**,
Call **(212) 239-6200**,
or Visit the **THEATRE ROW Box Office**
410 West 42nd St (btw 9th & 10th Aves.)
12:00pm to 8:00pm

THE BECKETT THEATRE
410 West 42nd Street NYC
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 PM
Saturday 2:00 PM & 8:00PM
Sunday 3:00 PM

TALK-BACKS with the cast following
every Sunday Matinee.

SPECIAL MATINEE: Wednesday,
April 11, 2018 @ 2:00 PM

SPECIAL WORLD PREMIERE EVENT
Scholastic Theatre



25th ANNIVERSARY
MILESTONES
REVEAL. RECLAIM. REIMAGINE.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF **TACT**

What began in 1992 as a group of 11 actors performing readings of classic plays has now grown into a theatrical family of almost 60 artists presenting great works of theatrical literature both old and new. Join us as we look back at some of TACT's most memorable moments.

1992 TACT's founding; first production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* performed at the Hudson Guild Theatre.

"Monday Night Reading Series" of concert-styled staged readings debuts at Hudson Guild Theatre with Anton Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*; the reading series eventually evolves into TACT's popular "Salon Series."

1993 TACT Company Members participate in a **strategic planning retreat** to redefine the Company's mission and to devote efforts toward "underappreciated plays of literary merit." **Scott Alan Evans, Maia Danziger, and Cynthia Harris** named Co-Artistic Directors.

1994 George Bernard Shaw's *Mrs. Warren's Profession* is the first staged reading performed at the historic **The Players**.

Partnership launched with the **Manhattan School of Music** to commission original music for TACT performances.

The iconic Waldorf Towers is the site of TACT's first benefit "**Parker & Porter**" – a salute to the "words and wit" of Dorothy Parker and Cole Porter.

1995 Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's *The Man Who Came to Dinner* is TACT's first performance at its new home in **The New York Historical Society**.



**TACT
FOUNDING
MEMBERS**

From left to right,
Front: Jo-Ann Salata
Maia Danziger
Cynthia Harris
Ryan Bowker

Middle: Paul Hecht
Scott Alan Evans
Francesca Di Mauro

Standing: Lynn Vogt
Gregory Salata
Larry Keith

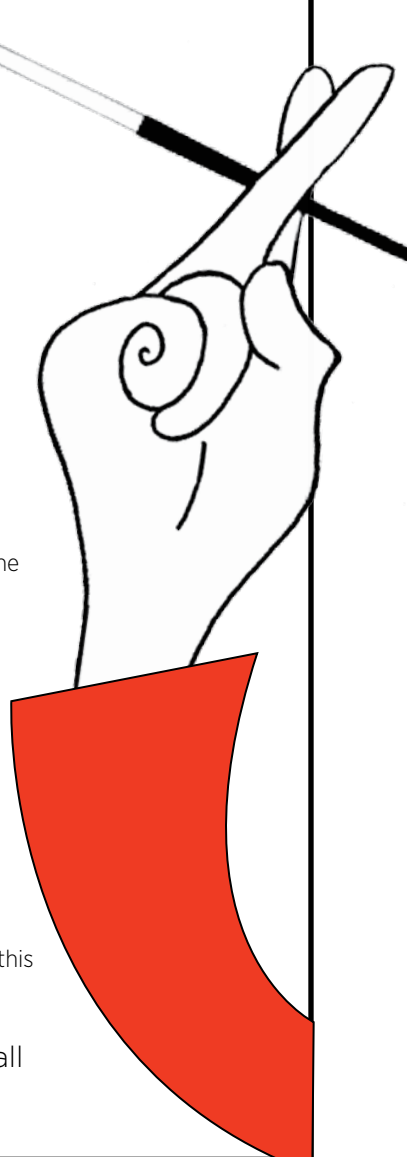
Noël Coward's
SALUTE
TO THE
BRAVE

**MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 13, 2017
ONE NIGHT ONLY!**

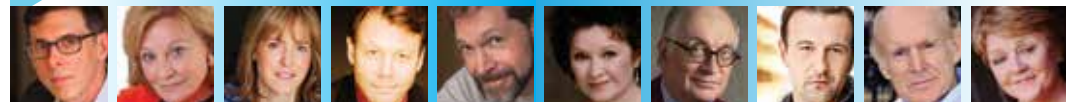
Thanks to The Noël Coward Estate, TACT will present the World Premiere of *Salute to the Brave*, an extraordinary lost play written in 1941 as an attempt by Sir Noël on behalf of the British government to encourage the U.S. to enter World War II. The ink was barely dry on the script when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and, well, the rest is history. The play languished in a proverbial drawer for 75 years until it was recently brought to light by Coward scholar, Barry Day.

Set among the moneyed-set in Connecticut, *Salute to the Brave* offers a blistering look at the dangers of complacency and head-in-the-sand isolationism when a privileged American woman, married to a British Naval Commander, escapes the bombing in London to the safety of wealth and comfort in the U.S. What she discovers there and the self-realizations she makes are at the center of this provocative comedy.

For Tickets and more information, call
TACT: **212-645-8228**



CURRENT COMPANY MEMBERS



FOUNDERS

1994/95

1995/96

1996/97

1997/98



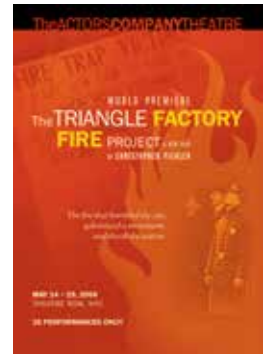
SEASONS OF TACT

- 1996 TACT heads to Pennsylvania's Bucknell University to perform in what will become an annual tradition of **summer trips** to Bucknell and Susquehanna University.
- 1997 **TACT's Adjunct Company** of directors, stage managers, composers, and designers is created to complement its Acting Company.
- 1999 TACT launches a longstanding relationship with the **Upward Bound** program for high school students with a performance at Bloomsburg University in Bloomsburg, PA. **Simon Jones** named Co-Artistic Director.
- 2000 TACT releases a CD entitled **Play On: Music for The Actors Company Theatre** that contains 40 musical selections from over 20 productions.
- 2001 TACT featured on WNYC's nationally syndicated radio program "**The Next Big Thing.**"
- 2002 The world premiere of Noel Coward's **Long Island Sound** at the ATA Theatre marks TACT's first-ever full production and gains the company worldwide acclaim.
- 2004 **The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Project**, a new work by Christopher Piehler and Scott Alan Evans created in collaboration with TACT Company Members, is TACT's first fully produced play at Theatre Row.

TACT moves into its own office, rehearsal and performance space at the TACT Studio at **900 Broadway.**
- 2005 Cast and audience safely evacuated from Florence Gould Hall during a performance of **Zack** by Harold Brighouse because of a water main break.
- 2006 TACT produces its first regular Mainstage production at Theatre Row - David Storey's **Home.**
- 2007 Philanthropist **Barbara Fleischman** underwrites TACT's Salon Series; these grants have continued annually to the present day.



noël coward's
Long Island Sound
world premiere



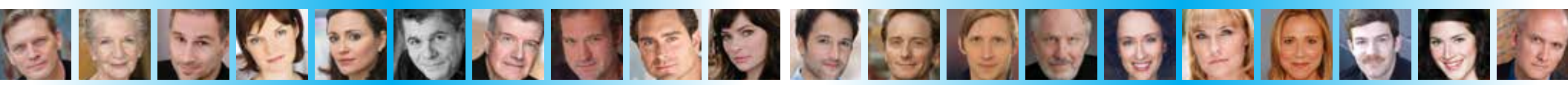
- 2008 TACT's annual tradition of celebrating the accomplishments of theatre and entertainment luminaries begins at its **Spring Gala** by honoring five-time Tony-Award® winner Julie Harris; future honorees include A.R. Gurney, Victor Garber, Angela Lansbury and Sam Waterston.

The New York Times names **The Eccentricities of a Nightingale** one of its "Top 10 Theatre Picks for 2008."
- 2010 TACT's new play development series **newTACTics** begins with Vincent Delaney's **T or C.**

The Wall Street Journal names **The Cocktail Party** a highlight of the 2010 season.
- 2011 **Jenn Thompson** named Co-Artistic Director.
- 2012 The Agnes Varis Trust begins its annual funding of TACT's **Ticket Access Program** that provides complimentary or discounted tickets to students, senior citizens, and theatre artists.

Neil Simon's **Lost in Yonkers** is nominated for a Drama Desk Award; the playwright, himself, surprises the cast by attending a performance.
- 2013 TACT named "**Company of the Year**" by *The Wall Street Journal*: "TACT is what off-Broadway ought to be."
- 2015 TACT's production of Beth Henley's **Abundance** wins the Off-Broadway Alliance's "Best Revival" Award.
- 2016 TACT named "**Best in Manhattan**" by **Our Town.**

TACT's production of George Bernard Shaw's **Widowers' Houses** nominated for the Off-Broadway Alliance's "Best Revival" Award.
- 2017 World premiere of Company Member Jeff Talbott's **The Gravedigger's Lullaby** at Theatre Row; the play was first workshopped and developed as part of the 2015 newTACTics New Play Festival.



1998/99 2000/01 2001/02 2002/03 2006/07 2007/08 2009/10 2010/11 2012/13

1992-2017
TACT
 BY THE NUMBERS

8 Emeritus Members

16 Fundraising Galas

75 Acting Company Members

25 Off-Broadway Productions

127 Salons & Concert Performances

47 Members of the Board

29 newTACTics Premieres

30 Adjunct Company Members

10 Founding Members

Reclaimed scores of plays of outstanding literary merit in our MAINSTAGE and SALON SERIES seasons.

Garnered consistent acclaim with our Off-Broadway productions presented at the Beckett Theatre/Theatre Row including The New York Times "Best of" lists and "Critic's Picks"; The Wall Street Journal "Best of" Lists; Drama Desk and OFF BROADWAY ALLIANCE awards & nominations.

Guided dozens of contemporary playwrights in development of their work through our newTACTics program and New Play Festival

Provided thousands of subsidized tickets to students, seniors, and artists

TACTALKS

FALL 2017: Noël Coward: Mad About the Boy

Date and Location to be announced

In conjunction with TACT's presentation of Sir Noël Coward's as-of-yet unproduced play *Salute to the Brave*, TACT will also sponsor a separate educational program featuring a number of actors and theater historians talking about Coward's work and legacy.

SPRING 2017: To be announced

We can't confirm yet what other amazing TACTtalk we're planning, but we promise you even more interesting and fascinating stories about the life and work of one or more of the playwrights we're featuring this season.

Winter Benefit

Monday, January 29, 2018

Mark your calendars now for what promises to be another magical evening of song at TACT's Annual MUSICAL Winter Benefit.

At the Laurie Beechman Theatre at the West Bank Café

Spring Gala

Monday, June 4, 2018

Join us at our annual Spring Gala at New York City's University Club as we celebrate our 25th anniversary and also honor two individuals whose work has been instrumental to TACT's long-term success:

- **Scott Alan Evans**, Founding Executive Artistic Director
- **Stephen Lindenmuth**, Chairman of the TACT Board of Directors



SAVE THE DATES!

2012/13 2013/14 2014/15 2015/16

salon

2017-2018 SEASON

SERIES

SOLID GOLD

For 25 years now, TACT has been mining the hidden veins of theatrical gold for our seasons. One would think, after all this time, the mines would be spent. But no! This year we've discovered an untapped mother lode of 20th-Century American plays we've always wanted to do – further proving the depth and breadth of this amazing canon. Certified masters Philip Barry, Edna Ferber & George S. Kaufman, Neil Simon, and A.R. Gurney provide the rich material we shall forge into our finely honed Salon evenings*. TACT invites you to join us for our Silver Anniversary Season which, we believe, will be 24 Karat Gold!

HOLIDAY

by Philip Barry

Can love trump money?

OCTOBER 14- 17

A successful young investment banker plans to abandon the relentless pursuit of wealth for a life of adventure, much to the dismay of his debutante fiancée and her mogul father. His only ally against their campaign to change his mind is his fiancée's unconventional sister. But as she pleads her sister's case to the young man, can she stop from falling in love with him herself? A stylish, frothy gem with a bit of bite.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY: 3:00PM
SUNDAY: 3:00PM
MONDAY: 7:30PM
TUESDAY: 7:30PM

THE DINING ROOM

by A.R. Gurney

One dining room, eighteen stories.

DECEMBER 9 - 12

An iconic piece of furniture is the enduring occupant of a room where, in a series of pitch perfect vignettes, eight actors portray dozens of characters over several decades as families come together and fall apart, and traditions and memories are made and disintegrate. The last vestiges of a bygone era and the mores of a vanishing breed, the affluent WASP, are captured masterfully in this funny, rueful, and uniquely human play, arguably A. R. Gurney's masterpiece.

TALK-BACKS with the cast following every Saturday and Sunday Matinee.

**Titles subject to availability and change without notice.*

LAUGHTER ON THE 23rd FLOOR

by Neil Simon

A young writer finds his voice on the staff of a hit 1950s TV show.

APRIL 21 - 24

Neil Simon's nostalgic and hilarious semi-autobiographical play about the writer's room of a hit 1950s television sketch comedy show with a demanding, charismatic, and powerful star. Mining his early years writing for Sid Caesar's *Your Show of Shows*, Simon reminds us that the Golden Age of television was also the McCarthy Era and that this fast-talking, quick-witted group of men — and one lone woman — were smack in the middle of both.

SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS

Call TACT at **212-645-8228** to make your Salon reservations.

STAGE DOOR

*by Edna Ferber
& George S. Kaufman*

Is theatrical success possible without "going Hollywood"?

MAY 19 - 22

Ah, The Footlights Club! A theatrical boarding house filled with starry-eyed young women looking for their "Big Break" on Broadway and some whose eyes are a bit more open to the disappointment that can tarnish those dreams. A large and colorful cast of characters comes to life in this valentine to the theatre (which is also full of cat swipes at Hollywood). TACT will have its own very special take on this enormous classic.

TACT STUDIO

900 Broadway, Suite 905
 New York, NY 10003



Join TACT's exclusive
25th SILVER ANNIVERSARY HONOR ROLL

This special giving program allows a unique group of individuals who donate \$2,500 (or more) to TACT in its milestone 2017/2018 season to have an enormous impact on our productions. Receive title page credit on all of our productions, as well as an intimate view of what goes into the making of an Off-Broadway production by TACT.

TACT's **TICKET ACCESS PROGRAM** offers qualified students, seniors, and artists free and/or substantially discounted tickets to our Mainstage productions. Sponsored by the **AGNES VARIS TRUST**.

For more information on these programs, call 212/645-8228 or check the website for details: www.tactnyc.org.

TO JOIN:

ONLINE: www.tactnyc.org

BY MAIL: Send completed form to:

TACT
900 Broadway
Suite 905
New York, NY 10003

BY PHONE: **212/645-8228**

Weekdays 10:00am - 6:00pm

PRIVILEGES

- Exclusive access to Salon Series
- Post-performance discussions & receptions
- Priority seating/booking, with early access to best seats
- Unlimited ticket exchange with 24 hours' notice
- Discounted guest tickets
- Email updates, reminders, and special offers
- Invitation to the TACT Gala

YOUR **TACT**
MEMBERSHIP (where SILVER tops gold!)

\$250 x _____ = \$ _____

Celebrate our SILVER Anniversary with this all-inclusive
SILVER MEMBERSHIP \$250

- 1 ticket to *SALUTE TO THE BRAVE*
- 1 ticket to *THREE WISE GUYS*
- All 4 Salon productions (members only)
- Invitation to TACT's 25th Anniversary kickoff event
- Invitation to TACTtalks
- All Member Privileges

\$125 x _____ = \$ _____

Strike GOLD with four classic & one future classic play with our
GOLD MEMBERSHIP \$125

- 1 ticket to *THREE WISE GUYS*
- All 4 Salon productions (members only)
- All Member Privileges

Tax Deductible
Contribution = \$ _____

**HELP MAKE GREAT THEATRE
HAPPEN.**

DONATE TO OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY.

Make a tax deductible contribution of \$25, \$250 or \$2,500 to help celebrate TACT's silver anniversary. Every contribution, no matter how large or small, makes a BIG difference.

\$2,500* _____ \$250 _____

\$25 _____ OTHER _____

* All contributions of \$2,500 or more will be specially recognized as part of our **25th Anniversary Honor Roll**.

Processing Fee = \$ 8.00

**GRAND
TOTAL = \$ _____**

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

PAYMENT METHOD

Check enclosed, payable to **TACT** Mastercard Visa AmEx

Card Number _____ Exp Date _____ Verif. Code (required) _____

Signature _____ Billing Zip Code _____

PLEASE NOTE: If paying with a credit card, charges will appear on your statement as Theatre Mania.



ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Scott Alan Evans
Executive Artistic Director
Nora Chester, Jeffrey C. Hawkins,
Associate Artistic Directors

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Jeremy Beck, Cynthia Darlow,
Richard Ferrone, Todd Gearhart,
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Brandon Jones, Simon Jones (*Artistic Director Emeritus*),
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Darrie Lawrence, Todd Lawson, Terry Layman,
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Greg McFadden, MacKenzie Meehan,
Tracy Middendorf, Kate Middleton,
Geoffrey Molloy, James Murtaugh, Margaret

Nichols, John Plumpis, James Prendergast,
Tony Roach, Liv Rooth, Justine Salata,
Scott Schafer, Dana Smith-Croll, David Staller,
Jeff Talbott, Richard Thieriot, Margot White,
Lynn Wright

In Memoriam - Larry Keith

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Kelly Burns, Cate DiGirolamo, Meredith Dixon,
Jonathan Faiman, Michael Friedlander,
Mary Louise Geiger, Amir Khosrowpour,
Lauren Miller, Jonathan Smith,
Yetti Steinman, Jenn Thompson (*Artistic Director Emerita*),
David Toser, Joseph Trapanese

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Jonathan Weber

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William E. Grau

CASTING DIRECTOR

Kelly Gillespie

MARKETING

Hofstetter + Partners/Agency
212

PRESS REPRESENTATIVE

David Gersten & Associates

Our 2017/2018 season is made possible, in part, by public funds from the **New York State Council on the Arts**, a State agency, and by the **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs** in partnership with the City Council.

TACT is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and a member of ART/NY



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TACT

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“TACT is what Off-Broadway ought to be.” - The Wall Street Journal