



*Theater you can afford to see—  
plays you can't afford to miss!*

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Press photos at <http://www.americancentury.org/photos/rock>

**'50s Glamour, Comedy . . . and the Devil:  
The American Century Theater's *Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?*  
Opens January 15, 2010**

The American Century Theater rings in the New Year with the glitz, glamour, and wit of George Axelrod's 1955 comedy, *Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?* This Faustian spoof, a big hit penned by a playwright who had many, combines classic romance, slapstick comedy, and the suspense of a duel with the Devil.

"George Axelrod was a master of the Broadway comedy, and we have been looking forward to doing another of his plays since *The Seven Year Itch* was such a successful production for us," says TACT Artistic Director Jack Marshall.

George MacCauley is a hack writer with just one published article, "Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?" Scheduled to interview reigning Hollywood sex goddess, Rita Marlowe, in her posh New York hotel room, George encounters—and falls into a deal with—the Devil. The play made a star and iconic sex symbol out of the voluptuous unknown, Jayne Mansfield.

Axelrod is a perfect playwright for The American Century Theater's mission of presenting great plays and playwrights that the theater world seems to have forgotten. One of the best and most versatile comic writers of his time, Axelrod's triumphs range from *Rock Hunter* and *The Seven Year Itch* to award-winning screenplays for film classics *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *The Manchurian Candidate*.

Show director is TACT Artistic Associate **Ellen Dempsey**, who directed TACT's *Happy Birthday, Wanda June*. TACT Producing Director **Sherri L. Perper** has assembled a team of designers ready to evoke the mood and style of Fifties Tinseltown, including **Anndi Daleske** (Set), **Rip Claassen** (Costumes), **Jason Aufdem-Brinke** (Lighting), **Edward Moser** (Sound), and **Trena Weiss-Null** (Props). **Jameson Shroyer** (Master Carpenter), **Steve Lada** and **Chuck Norris** (fight choreographers), and **Maggie Clifton** (Stage Manager) complete the production staff.

**Kari Ginsburg** will bring to life the role of vixen Rita Marlowe. Ginsburg last collaborated with Dempsey in TACT's *Happy Birthday, Wanda June*, in which she played Penelope Ryan, and has appeared in TACT productions of *Ah, Wilderness!* and *The Crucible*. The soul-bartering writer is TACT newcomer **Donald Osborne**. Making his TACT debut as Bronk Brannigan is **James Finley**, a regular with Washington Shakespeare Company and Keegan Theatre. Versatile TACT

favorite **Steve Lebens** (*An American Century Christmas*, *Hellzapoppin'*, and *Women Under the Influence*) plays the demonic agent, Irving LaSalle. **John Tweel** and **Craig Miller** send up the Hollywood archetypes of egomaniacal writer and neurotic movie mogul. Tweel (cast in more TACT shows over the years than any other actor) was last seen in *The Titans*. Miller appears in his second TACT production, having last played Charlie in *Seascape*. Rounding out the cast are **Leigh Anna Fry** (Secretary) and **Robert Lavery** (Masseur).

## Performance Information

### Press night

The press is invited to the show's performance Saturday, January 16 at 8 pm.

### Show dates

*Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?* **runs** Wednesday, January 15, 2010–Saturday, February 6, 2010, for a total of 20 performances.

**Preview performances** (pay what you can): Wednesday, January 13, and Thursday, January 14

**Opening night performance and reception:** Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm

**Additional pay-what-you-can performance:** Wednesday, January 20

**Post show talk-back** (discussion with cast members and director): Thursday, January 21

### Show times

Thursday–Saturday evenings 8 pm; Saturday/Sunday matinees 2:30 pm (no matinee January 16)

### Location

All performances at Theater II, Gunston Arts Center, 2700 S. Lang St., Arlington VA 22206

### Tickets

Prices range from \$26–32.

Discounts are available for seniors (65+), students, active duty military, and groups.

Children under 18 are admitted free with a (full price) adult (space permitting, limit 5).

Tickets can be ordered online at [www.americancentury.org](http://www.americancentury.org) or by calling 703.998.4555.

### More information and reservations

Call 703.998.4555, email [office@americancentury.org](mailto:office@americancentury.org), or visit [www.AmericanCentury.org](http://www.AmericanCentury.org).

### Directions

Visit <http://americancentury.org/directions>

Gunston Arts Center, Theater II, is about 10 minutes from downtown DC and 5 minutes from Shirlington Village. Free, ample, well lighted **parking** is available.

## About TACT

The American Century Theater is a 501(c)(3) professional nonprofit theater company dedicated to producing significant 20th century American plays and musicals at risk of being forgotten. TACT is funded in part by Arlington County through the Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources and the Arlington Commission for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and many generous donors.