



**Faction of Fools Theatre Company**  
presents

***The Great Commedia Hotel Murder Mystery***

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| <u>What:</u>         | <i>The Great Commedia Hotel Murder Mystery</i>  |
| <u>Who:</u>          | Faction of Fools Theatre Company  |
| <u>Where:</u>        | Eastman Studio Theatre – Elstad Annex at Gallaudet University<br>800 Florida Ave NE WDC (Free parking! Metro access: Red line. NoMa/Gallaudet)  |
| <u>When:</u>         | April 26 <sup>th</sup> – May 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2019; Thurs, Fri, Sat at 8pm // Sat, Sun at 2pm<br>Previews: April 26 <sup>th</sup> 8pm, April 27 <sup>th</sup> 8pm, and April 28 <sup>th</sup> 7pm<br>Opening Night: Mon, April 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 at 7:30pm<br>ASL Interpreted performances: Mon, April 29 <sup>th</sup> 7:30pm / Thurs, May 2 <sup>nd</sup> 8pm / Sat<br>May 11 <sup>th</sup> 2pm<br><i>Open Caption available by request at all performances</i> |
| <u>Tickets:</u>      | \$12-22 available at the door, 1-800-838-3006, and <a href="http://www.factionoffools.org">www.factionoffools.org</a><br>Appropriate for all ages   |
| <u>Publicist:</u>    | Kathryn Zoerb, Director of Marketing:<br>717-798-4292 or <a href="mailto:Kathryn@factionoffools.org">Kathryn@factionoffools.org</a>   |
| <u>Press Photos:</u> | Available at <a href="http://www.factionoffools.org/press">www.factionoffools.org/press</a>   |

**Faction of Fools Theatre Company**, DC's Commedia dell'Arte theatre company, brings the stunning conclusion of our 10th Anniversary Season with this world-premiere production! Mustachioed detectives, zanni bellhops, femme fatales, and more make this one for the books. In the grand tradition of Agatha Christie, Clue, and Sherlock Holmes, this love letter to classic mysteries is not to be missed. Acrobatics, sign language, slapstick, and theatrical sleight-of-hand fill 100 minutes of off-the-wall physical comedy.

*The Great Commedia Hotel Murder Mystery* takes us to the Hotel MacGuffin on a dark and stormy night in the 1940s, where a group of random guests has been summoned together. Before the evening is out, secrets will be revealed, trysts will be uncovered, and a grisly murder will take place. Was it the wealthy businessman, Mr. Bernard Bottomdollar? The clever maid, Babette? The learned lawyer, Dr. Lionel Lastword? The stalwart Concierge? The Bellhop? The Movie Star? The Cook? Everyone is suspect. Join us for laughter, murder, and mayhem as only the Fools can provide. You'll be guessing "whodunnit" until the very end!

As DC's Commedia dell'Arte theatre company, Faction of Fools Theatre Company's mission is to entertain, educate and elucidate through the practice and performance of Commedia dell'Arte

by bringing productions to the stage infused with Commedia's best attributes: physical discipline, spontaneous imagination, collaborative energy, and joyous wonder. The Fools are the Helen Hayes Awards recipients of the 2012 John Aniello Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Company.

Faction of Fools' Producing Artistic Director **Paul Reisman** serves as playwright and director for *The Great Commedia Hotel Murder Mystery*. A founding member, Reisman has directed and produced many recent favorites including *Henry V*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *Foolish Fairytales*, which he also wrote. He directed and adapted *Pinocchio!* (nominated for a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Production, Theatre for Young Audiences), co-adapted Faction's acclaimed *A Commedia Romeo & Juliet*, and has directed and appeared onstage in many other Faction of Fools productions since 2011. An MFA graduate of the Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy for Classical Acting at George Washington University, Reisman is rooted in classical theater performance and scholarship in addition to physical comedy. He has trained extensively in mask, Commedia and physical theatre under Dody DiSanto, Christopher Bayes, and Maestro Antonio Fava. In Washington, DC he has also directed productions for Flying V, We Happy Few, Brave Spirits Theatre, and the Academy for Classical Acting. He has appeared onstage locally and nationally with companies including DC's Shakespeare Theatre Company, Taffety Punk, Spooky Action Theatre, American Shakespeare Center, American Globe Theatre, and Shakespeare Theatre of NJ.

*The Great Commedia Hotel Murder Mystery* features a multi-talented cast filled with Faction veterans as well as new, exciting players. The merry band of hotel guests, employees, and suspects are portrayed by Tori Boutin (Rorschach Theatre, We Happy Few), Francesca Chilcote (Faction's *The Cherry Orchard*; Adventure Theatre, Nu Sass), Colin Connor (Constellation, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company), Darius Johnson (Faction's *Bravo, Zan Angelo!*: The Workshop), Ben Lauer (Faction's *Henry V & Merchant of Venice*; Constellation, Ally Theatre Company), Kelsey Painter (Adventure Theatre, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company), Graham Pilato (Faction's *The House with Two Doors*; Constellation, The Welders), Kathryn Zoerb (Faction's *The Cherry Orchard & Our Town*; Folger Theatre, WSC Avant Bard), and Gallaudet student intern, Chukwudi Kalu.

The world of the Hotel MacGuffin is brought to vibrant life by lighting designer Chris Curtis (Faction's *Henry V*, *The Merchant of Venice*; Taffety Punk), costume designer Kitt Crescenzo (Faction's *The Cherry Orchard*; Washington National Opera), set designer Bridgid K. Burge (Solas Nua, Silver Spring Stage), original music composition by Jesse Terrill (Faction's *Henry V*, *The Cherry Orchard*; Arena Stage, Constellation) and masks by Aaron Cromie & Tara Cariaso (Faction's *Titus Andronicus*, *The Lady Becomes Him*, *Hamlecchino*, *A Commedia Romeo and Juliet*).

For more information, visit <http://www.factionoffools.org/murdermystery>

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