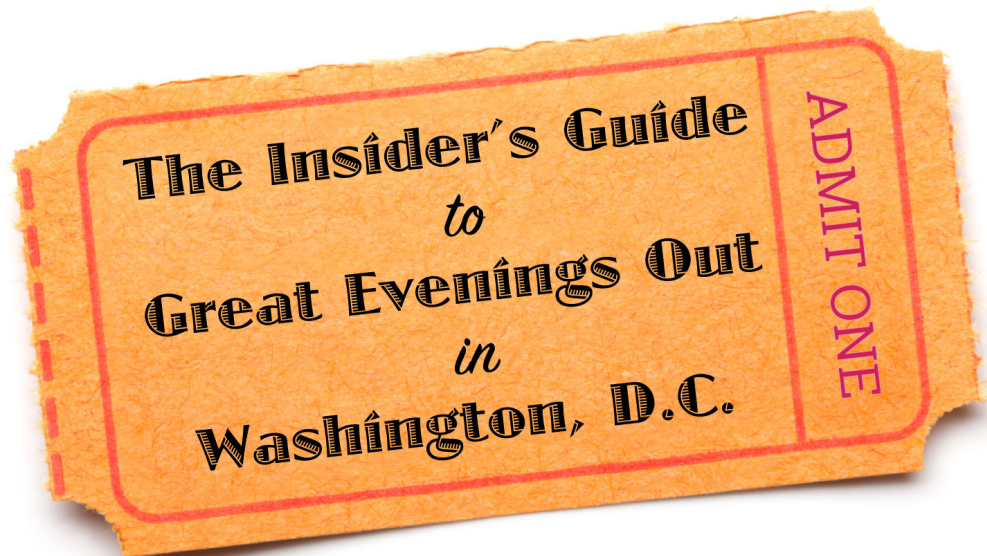


# Just the Ticket



by Pete Miller & Sara Cormeny

January-March 2017



**Just the Ticket**  
**An Insider's Guide to Great Evenings Out in Washington, DC**

January-March 2017 Edition

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## Introduction

### Welcome to Our Nation's Capital and to a Great Evening Out!

As you're planning to spend time in Washington, DC, you already know to expect great museums with free admission; stirring monuments; and marble clad public buildings. These attractions can keep you happily occupied all day. However, you may not be aware that DC is also one of the best areas in the country for live theatre – most of it local to boot – or that this famously work-obsessed city has developed a wonderful restaurant and bar scene in recent years. These restaurants, theaters, and bars can keep the fun rolling from closing time at the Smithsonian till late at night. *Just the Ticket* is your key to unlock enjoyable evenings out in and around DC.

The core of this e-book is a collection of twelve great evenings out, curated by us, your enthusiastic local Insiders. Each evening out starts with dinner; there's a fine dining option and a more budget conscious option available in each one. It then continues with the main entertainment, which is a show at one of the area's dozens of producing theatre companies. The evening out culminates with a bar recommendation where you can chat with your companions about your day and your Great Evening Out.

The evenings out are presented in the order of the first performance of the included show. Each one clearly lists the time period and nights of the week for which it is available. We hope this makes it easy for you to find those evenings out that you could choose during your visit to DC.

We don't have show reviews here, though you can check our website for more impressions once the shows have actually opened. The shows in question haven't started performing at the time we write, so anything we say about the quality of a show in this guide is our Insider guess based on what we know about the people putting it on.

The specific evenings out are supported by chapters that guide you through:

- getting oriented and getting around while in DC (See [Getting Around DC](#))
- Buying theatre tickets at the best prices (See [Cheap Seats](#))
- Feeling comfortable going to plays in case that's something you don't usually do (See [Playgoing Glossary](#))

*Just the Ticket* is primarily aimed at people who are visiting DC, but we can imagine that if you live in or around DC, but need a bit of a night-life reboot, these evenings will be just the push you need to do something a little boozy, a little artsy, and completely delicious.

Whoever you are and however you came to be reading this, we hope you'll try one of our evenings out, that you'll have a great time, and that you'll let us know how it went – send us email at [peteandsara@greateveningsout.com](mailto:peteandsara@greateveningsout.com) or comment on our web page, [greateveningsout.com](http://greateveningsout.com). We're pleased that we are now offering you our fifth edition. Anything you can tell us that would help improve the guide will be much appreciated.

Okay! Now that you know what we're up to, let's get started.

## The Evenings

### Great Evening 1: Fun with Physicists in Dupont Circle

*Copenhagen* is onstage Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday, Jan 5 – 29. Top ticket price \$65.

Wit and charm await you both on stage and in your conversation in this particular destination. Dupont Circle was one of the first neighborhoods to kick off as a lively entertainment district in the 1990's. It's been full of hopping bars and restaurants ever since, continuing to evolve for DC's ever-changing audience, with a focus on the neighborhood's residents. We'll be sending you tonight either to a fancy newcomer or venerable institution to eat, then a show on nearby 16th St NW, and back to 17th St NW for a nightcap. You'll probably see the population on the street change from families in the early evening to a happy buzz of fun seekers towards the end of your evening. It is now a 24 hour neighborhood that many tourists visit even though there is no single cultural attraction. The vibe of the place alone is enough to draw them. We feel sure you will enjoy it as well. (Metro: Dupont Circle, 19<sup>th</sup> St exit makes for a shorter walk.)

Your primary dining option is **Nazca Mohica**, a recently opened and truly wonderful Peruvian double threat that serves a long, varied menu upstairs and a shorter but still delicious tapas menu below. (Dining pre-show, you'll be able to take advantage of their happy hour menu downstairs on many evenings.) Either deck will take good care of you in beautiful surroundings and with highly attentive service. If any of the dishes are unfamiliar, the staff will be happy to explain. Expect spice and heat, but never enough to drown out the peak-of-perfection ingredients. The bar focuses on cocktails made from Pisco, a Peruvian cousin of brandy; and if you lean at all in that direction, be sure to try one or two. They also pour undistilled wine and a few beer selections. Cebiche is available and excellent on either deck. You could make a fine meal sharing several variations of that one dish. (1633 P Street NW, Washington, DC 202-733-3170 [nazcamochica.com](http://nazcamochica.com))

To sample Dupont Circle as it ever was and to save a few dollars, dine at the **Trio**. This is pretty much a full-on diner with a bar. Meatloaf and pot roast are always on the menu. Drinks are discounted for happy hour from 4-7 weekdays. Most of the seating is in booths. Staff are friendly and helpful. (1537 17th St NW, Washington, DC [triodc.com](http://triodc.com))

Seeing *Copenhagen* is a lot like reading a taut mystery novel – you're constantly trying to judge what really happened. The play is inspired by a real-life meeting between two scientists who had an immense impact on world history through their work on atomic bombs, one for the failed German program and one for the successful American program. Did one convince the other to sabotage his work? What can they and we learn going back to review this conversation? In *Copenhagen*, three great actors, including Tim Getman and Michael Russotto – two of our favorites who have often been called out in this guide – play for you an effort to reconstruct the meeting. You'll find yourself spellbound considering the various versions they try on. We were lucky enough to see the original production of this play in 1998 and still remember it powerfully. One thing you need have no doubt about – you will see a great play. (1529 16th St NW, Washington, DC 202-777-3210 [edcjcc.org/center-for-arts/theater-j](http://edcjcc.org/center-for-arts/theater-j))

Get your after-show drink on at **Duke's Grocery**. Imaginative cocktails, some good beers on draft, and a few nice bottles of wine should make everyone around your table happy. Most of the crowd here are in their mid-twenties, but everyone is welcome. They serve a late night spectrum of snacks in case anyone has the munchies. Which version of the play's imagined meeting seemed most likely to be true to you and your friends? (1513 17th St NW, Washington, DC [dukesgrocery.com](http://dukesgrocery.com))

## Great Evening 2: Meat and spirits on 14<sup>th</sup> St NW

*The Hard Problem* is onstage Tuesday - Sunday, Jan 11 – Feb 19. Top ticket price \$79.

A great meal, big questions about what makes us human, and our choice for DC's coolest basement bar will introduce you thoroughly to 14th St NW. During the first half of this decade, 14th St NW from Thomas Circle up to V St saw the birth of dozens of beautiful and buzzy restaurants, bars, and shops. Now, these blocks are an almost continuous parade of interesting places to poke into and interesting people poking in to them. Allow some time before dinner to cruise the strip and enjoy the scene. Oh, and for a time capsule look at this zone before redevelopment, peer through the dusty window of Monarch Novelty a few doors south from Birch & Barley. What on earth goes on in there? (Metro: Dupont Circle 19<sup>th</sup> Street Exit or U St/Cardozo 13<sup>th</sup> Street Exit. Either one is a nice 15 minute walk to Studio.)

Dinner at **Birch & Barley** starts any evening off right. The food is seasonal and delicious with the menu updated at least once a month. As a result, we cannot recommend specific dishes, but the chef will almost certainly be doing something wonderful with a piece of fish and some well-chosen accompaniments that will make you happy. One main for two people plus another dish or two from their other categories will usually satisfy. If you're still hungry, the sweets are spectacular and inventive, often deconstructions of childhood favorites like S'mores or rice crispie treats. Beer is the strongest suit from the bar with a large and brilliantly curated selection of exotic draft offerings. Wine and cocktails are also worthy. Staff are very helpful and will keep you on time without rushing you if you let them know you have a show to attend. (1337 14th St NW, Washington, DC 202-567-2576 [birchandbarley.com](http://birchandbarley.com))

Or save some cash by eating at **Whole Foods**. This P St NW grocery store not only has a large, diverse selection of pay-by-the-pound prepared foods, it serves craft beer by the pint and has a mezzanine seating area where you can consume it all in comfort. Their rotisserie chickens are especially good. The deli counter always has a tempting array of side dishes. There's a great display of tea cookies, a few of which make a nice light dessert. (1440 P St NW, Washington, DC)

At the opening of *The Hard Problem* we're in bed with two attractive grad students who soon grapple less with each other and more with the mechanisms of consciousness. This tension between the physical and the intellectual or even spiritual nature of humanity propels the play. Our lead characters are brain researchers trying to understand how you get from a few pounds of brain tissue to the "you" you know you are. Playwright Tom Stoppard has a wonderful track record of having characters hash out big questions in front of an audience without ever feeling like a lecture. We already have tickets to this one and are eager to see it. (Studio Theatre at 1501 14th St NW, Washington, DC 202-332-3300. [studiotheatre.org](http://studiotheatre.org))

Finish your evening at **2 birds, 1 stone**, a high-concept underground bar with friendly staff and delightful cocktails. It's a terrific night spot, but doesn't have much street visibility. Get yourself to the corner of 7th and S NW and ask a passing local where the stairs down are. It's worth looking for. After this play, can you narrow it down to just one topic to discuss? (1800 14th St NW, Washington, DC [2birds1stonedc.com](http://2birds1stonedc.com))

### Great Evening 3: A supreme evening out on the Waterfront

*Roe* is onstage Tuesday - Sunday, Jan 12 – Feb 19. Top ticket price \$97.

Fun food and a dramatic look at contemporary history will serve as a highlight of your visit to DC. You'll have dinner in Gallery Place, pulsing with life around the clock as art lovers, shoppers, sports fans, movie goers, foodies, street musicians, and playgoers all scoot by to their varied destinations. Your show for the night performs in Waterfront; historically a major dining and dancing destination currently in the middle of a massive reconstruction project. New doors don't start opening until late 2017. In the meantime, you'll be able to see something of the construction site from the lobby of your theater. We look forward to all-Waterfront great evenings starting in 2018! (Metro: Archives/Navy Memorial for Dinner, Waterfront for show.)

Start with dinner at **701**, a restaurant with the look of an exclusive club but a feel that makes everyone welcome. The food is always great. The staff are skilled and friendly. They serve a pre-theatre fixed meal. The menu is short but varied - always including a few good seafood dishes and some delicious and satisfying vegetarian options – cauliflower schawarma has us contemplating a visit there ourselves. The beverage menu offers excellent choices for cocktail, wine, or beer. It is steps from Archives/Navy Memorial metro station where you can catch a train to the theater, or hail a taxi or meet an Uber just out front. (701 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 202-393-0701 [701restaurant.com](http://701restaurant.com))

Or save some cash about one block north on 7th Street at **Merzi**, a made-to-your-order Indian restaurant. Think Chipotle with curry instead of salsa. The food is fresh and tasty and as creative as you are. Choose a starch, a protein, a sauce, and some add-ins, then sit at a booth and dig in. Service is quick and friendly. (415 7th St NW, Washington, DC [merzi.com](http://merzi.com))

You came to DC partly to see the places and people that have shaped the world. Arena Stage is putting one of those important moments on the stage. *Roe* takes us back to the 1973 Supreme Court case *Roe v Wade* – and all its repercussions for our society today. This production had an earlier run in 2016 when it got enthusiastic reviews. You'll see the real lives behind the court case, and there are surprises. (Arena Stage at 1101 Sixth Street, SW, Washington, DC 202-488-3300 [arenastage.org](http://arenastage.org))

The Arena lobby bar may be open for a post-show drink – otherwise, we recommend heading back towards your lodging and having a nightcap at a place you've been noticing while coming and going from there. Either way, how did the play fill in your picture of this momentous court case?

Insider Tip: Wouldn't it be awesome to see the Supreme Court building itself before or after this show? [Supremecourt.gov](http://Supremecourt.gov) has the specifics you need to visit and maybe even see the court in session. We feel like it's not worth making a special effort to catch an actual case, as the actual proceedings are pretty arcane and hard to follow. But it is still cool to be in the room where these major cases happen, so give it a whirl if the line is not long. It's also very impressive to simply stand in front of the building any time of day or night, where you're just across from the Capitol.

## Great Evening 4: Scotch on fresh rocks in Dupont Circle

*MACK, BETH* is onstage Thursday - Saturday, Jan 21 – Feb 11. Top ticket price \$49.

Start with a ghost-free dinner sharing great small plates then walk a block to a fresh take on the Scottish play in the neighborhood where DC's urban renaissance began. Dupont Circle was the first neighborhood to start drawing young professionals and retail businesses back into the urban core, starting in the late 80's. Residential blocks now feel comfortable and established. The bar and restaurant scene has remained bright and fun. In warm weather, outdoor seating along 17<sup>th</sup> St NW turns this strip into a sort of boardwalk without an ocean. Even in winter, the eateries hum with locals. Our two restaurant alternatives here are a relative newcomer (we remember four successive restaurants in the space) and a stalwart pillar of many decades standing. (Metro: Dupont Circle, 19<sup>th</sup> St exit.)

For novelty, start with dinner at **Agora**, a fine dining Turkish restaurant specializing in delicate small plates fragrant with garlic, pepper, and mint. All the courses go well with their pillow-soft pita bread. A few dips and some hot and cold meze selections make a fine meal, although the roasted meat aroma of the place may draw you on to some of the heavier plates as well. (1527 17<sup>th</sup> St NW, Washington DC 202-332-6767 [agoradc.net](http://agoradc.net))

To sample Dupont Circle as it ever was and to save a few dollars, dine at the **Trio**. This is pretty much a full-on diner with a bar. Meatloaf and pot roast are always on the menu. Drinks are discounted for happy hour from 4-7 on weekdays. Most of the seating is in booths. Staff are friendly and helpful. (1537 17<sup>th</sup> St NW, Washington, DC [trioldc.com](http://trioldc.com))

Be among the first people to see a new take on Shakespeare's stabbiest play at Keegan Theatre's world premiere of *MACK, BETH*, by local playwright Chris Stezin. All the blood, prophecy, scheming lovers, and ambition; none of the wilts and wherefores. This shiny new theater in what was historically a gymnasium is a great place to catch a show. We can't tell you much about the play since Chris is still finishing it as we are writing this, but we expect engaging parallels to contemporary politics and life. Seeing anything brand new always carries a little risk, but when it pays off, you get big bragging rights to reward your courage. (Keegan Theatre at 1742 Church Street NW, Washington, DC 202-265-3767 [keegantheatre.com](http://keegantheatre.com))

Get your after-show drink on at **Duke's Grocery**. Imaginative cocktails, some good beers on draft, and a few nice bottles of wine should make everyone around your table happy. Most of the crowd here are fairly young, but everyone is welcome. They serve a late night spectrum of snacks in case anyone has the munchies. Who among your friends seems like a Mack or a Beth? (1513 17th St NW, Washington, DC 20036 [dukesgrocery.com](http://dukesgrocery.com))



## Great Evening 5: Wander the woods on Capitol Hill

*As You Like It* is onstage Tuesday - Sunday, Jan 24 – Mar 5. Top ticket price \$67.

Culinary and theatrical fireworks will warm up a winter evening near the glow of the federal city. As you approach and leave the theater, you're just steps from the Supreme Court and some stunning close-up views of the Capitol Building. If the weather is nice post-show, take a stroll through Washington's most powerful power corridor at night. (Metro: Capitol South or Union Station)

Start with dinner at **Sonoma**. The food is exceptional for freshness and care of preparation. Fill a table with small plates to eat your way around the animal and vegetable kingdoms. Even their green salad is something quite special. The bar is wine-forward and can be counted on for a few good craft beers. For dessert, the ricotta beignets are little pillows of wonder. A reservation is a good idea, although you can also try for seats at the bar. (223 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Washington, DC 20003. 202-544-8088. [sonomadc.com](http://sonomadc.com))

A few blocks along Pennsylvania Ave, **Mr. Henry's** is a stalwart neighborhood institution with comfortable atmosphere, great burgers, and frequent food and drink specials. They'll probably have draft beers from Atlas and Jailbreak, two of DC's more recently emerged brewers. A bowl of their Chili would get you to breakfast, and many couples could split one of the large plates. (601 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Washington, DC [mrhenrysd.com](http://mrhenrysd.com))

*As You Like It* mixes young love, political intrigue, attempts to define a good life, and beautiful speeches into an intoxicating comic cocktail. In it, Shakespeare invented many of the most enjoyable ingredients in romantic comedy. It's got that wonderful "All the World's a stage" bit. Local star Tom Story will get to do that speech, and he'll rock it. This particular production, restaged from a much admired run at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival last summer, incorporates original music and dance. Even if Shakespeare isn't usually your thing, this is likely to grab you. Late in the play, the young heroine, disguised as a man for protection, makes a series of impossible promises then makes them all come true. It's a delicious pay off at the end of a delightful ride. Grab a ticket and head to the Forest of Arden. (201 E Capitol St SE, Washington, DC 20003. 202-544-7077 [folger.edu](http://folger.edu))

Have a nightcap at the **Hawk and Dove**. This venerable Capitol Hill dive bar got a big renovation in 2013. You can still find tables of congressional staffers from opposite sides of the aisle looking daggers at each other while you sip a drink and talk about getting away from it all. What makes you want to stay in the life you have and what makes you want to chuck it for something quieter? (329 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Washington, DC 20003)

## Great Evening 6: Southern Musical north of DC in Bethesda

*Caroline, or Change* is onstage Wednesday - Saturday, Jan 25 – Feb 26. Top ticket price \$71.

Explore the relations between servants and the served with musical accompaniment in a fashionable satellite city. Bethesda is a Maryland neighborhood just seven Metro stops from downtown Washington. There's fun shopping and attractive housing. Unfortunately, as Insiders, we can tell you we have to dig a little deeper around here to find good food and drink, but we're happy to work that hard for you. Wisconsin Avenue, Woodmont Avenue, and the big triangle Woodmont makes with Norfolk and Rugby are the main streets on which to find hospitality and sparkle. (Metro: Bethesda)

Get things going at **Black's Bar & Kitchen**, a sleek dining destination near one point of the Woodmont Triangle. You will definitely feel firmly in the camp of "The served" here. The interior gleams with polished wood as efficient staff members whiz by dispensing plates rich with seafood or steak and succulent sides. An array of oysters from the raw bar make a great start. For a main, choose from among their composed plates or specify a hunk of creature from the grill and choose your own vegetables and sauces. The bar is strongest on wine and cocktails including a few tangy non-alcoholic concoctions that show off their custom mixers for anyone spurning alcohol. The pastry chef specializes in playful elevated versions of mass-market confections. Whatever path you choose through the menu, you'll have an excellent meal. (7750 Woodmont Ave, Bethesda, MD 301-652-5525 [blacksbarandkitchen.com](http://blacksbarandkitchen.com))

You could save some time and money by dining at **la Madeleine**, a cafeteria-style French café, where you will to some extent serve yourself. You can get salads, entrees, or sandwiches to put together whatever meal you'd like. The food is tasty. You can have some wine with it. There's even a bit of charm to the country décor. The pastry counter really shines here, so consider winding up with something sweet to dip in café au lait. (7607 Old Georgetown Rd, Bethesda, MD [lamadeleine.com](http://lamadeleine.com))

Either restaurant is a short walk to Round House Theater where you will be whisked on wings of song to 1963 Louisiana by *Caroline, or Change*. We tune in on the lives of two families - one white, one black – and see them both through a difficult time. The cast includes local musical powerhouses Will Gartshore and Felicia Curry, who routinely electrify audiences with their acting and musical chops. We gave the original cast recording a listen and found it hot and jazzy. If the prospect of powerful singing telling a rich story gets you going, get going to Bethesda. (4545 East-West Hwy, Bethesda, MD 240-644-1100 [roundhousetheatre.org](http://roundhousetheatre.org))

Ideally, we'd send you to a sultry, moonlit veranda after this show; but it's winter, so Bethesda doesn't offer that. **The Barking Dog** has become our favored post-show bar after a Round House play. The Dog is a friendly, neighborhood pub. Good general selection of drinks. Friday and Saturday nights, there's dancing upstairs if you've still got the energy. In this crossroads of all classes, you can discuss what tonight's play made you think about. (4723 Elm St, Bethesda, MD 20814 [barkingdogbar.com](http://barkingdogbar.com))

## Great Evening 7: A stormy night in any weather in Gallery Place

*Baby Screams Miracle* is onstage Wednesday - Sunday, Jan 30 – Feb 26. Top ticket price \$75.

Peruvian food and a wild rumpus of a play will ensure a flavorful night out in this excellent date night zone. Gallery Place hums with life any night of the week with sports fans, movie goers, foodies, street musicians, and playgoers all taking full advantage of what's on offer. Leave some time to explore the neighborhood, weaving through the throng and feeling the vitality. (Metro: Gallery Place/Chinatown or Archives/Navy Memorial)

Start with dinner at **China Chilcano** - a Peruvian fusion restaurant. The food is tasty and creative, as one would expect from DC celebrity chef Jose Andres who here incorporates flavors and techniques from the Asian immigrant population in Peru. The menu changes with the seasons, but there will almost always be a wonderful Lomo Saltado and some mouthwatering Dim Sum. Cocktails with Pisco (a spirit distilled from Peruvian wine) are the highlights of the bar. The service is outstanding, and particularly good at helping you manage your pre-show time. We recommend reservations; although if there are just one or two in your party, it's a fun place to eat at the bar as well. (418 7th St NW, Washington, DC 202-783-0941 [chinachilcano.com](http://chinachilcano.com))

For a less expensive and more casual meal, eat down the block at **Protein Bar**. In a world with a lack of healthy fast food options, this emerging chain of restaurants is working to buck the trend. They serve a good variety of fresh, low-fat, high-flavor dishes. It's a juice bar rather than alcohol bar here, but if you want a pre-show adult beverage, you can get beer or wine from Judith's Bar at the theater or drop in on any of the many nearby bars. (398 7th St NW, Washington, DC [theproteinbar.com](http://theproteinbar.com))

Are you ready for a bumpy ride? *Baby Screams Miracle* will deliver more thrills and sudden changes of direction than a roller coaster. We follow a family of devout believers whose faith in absolutely everything is tested when a monster storm disassembles their home and chases them when they try to escape. Expect spectacular effects that will put you in the middle of the chaos. Kate Eastwood Norris and her real life husband Cody Nickell play the middle generation of the family. When these two formidable, multi-talented actors work together, sparks always fly. You won't forget this high voltage component of your evening out. (641 D Street, NW Washington, DC 202-393-3939 [woollymammoth.net](http://woollymammoth.net))

Steady your nerves with a post-show drink at the **Partisan**. Partisan also houses a restaurant and butcher shop, but you want the bar at the back right now. It's a comfortable exposed-brick space with a good beer selection, fabulous specialty cocktails, and some good wine by the glass. Bartenders are knowledgeable and helpful if you've got any questions. If you gave Woolly your email address when buying tickets, you should have a message from them on your phone, with discussion questions for over drinks. (709 D St NW, Washington, DC [thepartisandc.com](http://thepartisandc.com))

## Great Evening 8: Royal evening out in Gallery Place

*King Charles III* is onstage Tuesday - Saturday, Feb 2 – Mar 12. Top ticket price \$123.

Be treated like royalty then check in on the future of monarchy in one of our fave revitalized DC neighborhoods, perfect for a date night. Start with Italian food in either fine dining or comfort food surroundings. As you walk the few blocks to the theater, sharing the sidewalk with all of Washington life, look for celebrities or power brokers in the throngs. Then take your seats at the theater to watch how power really breaks. (Metro: Gallery Place/Chinatown or Archives/Navy Memorial)

Indulge in a luxurious meal at **Fiola**, where the food is as lovely to see as to taste and the service makes you feel like a visiting dignitary. The menu fits on a single page – only the dishes the chefs have the best ingredients and inspiration for on the day you arrive. The cuisine draws on the most flavorful all regions of Italy have to offer. We particularly recommend anything that includes seafood and pasta. Most meals are priced by number of courses and always include dessert. The wine selection is exceptional and the bar also turns out delicious, fanciful cocktails and even a few custom-made soft drinks. Whatever you choose, you'll leave happy and impressed. (601 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 202-628-2888 [fioladc.com](http://fioladc.com))

For a much less spendy but still tasty meal, try **Carmine's**, a comfortable and friendly place just across the street from your show. All the food here is served family style. One pasta dish with a side vegetable would be a satisfying meal for two and may leave you with some to carry away. We particularly recommend linguini with ragu for meat eaters or garlic and oil for vegetarians. On the off chance that you're doing this evening with a larger group, we suggest a rule of two dishes for every three people. Their house red and white wines serve as fine complements to the meal. There are also always a few good draft beers on offer and the bar can create basic cocktails. (425 7th St NW, Washington, DC 202-737-7770 [carminesnyc.com](http://carminesnyc.com))

We think of *King Charles III* as season 17 or so of the Netflix series *The Crown*, which we've been enjoying. The Queen is dead and the new King is getting above himself. You'll hear the rhythms and style of a Shakespearian history play, but in contemporary language (we have read the script so we can vouch for that) and in circumstances that feel completely plausible. We know it's been a couple centuries since English royals had much direct impact on us over here, but the central theme of a newly empowered head of state pushing the limits of his authority make this play all too timely. (Shakespeare Theatre Company at Harmon Hall 610 F St NW, Washington, DC 202-547-1122)

Drink yourself back into 2017 at **Oyamel**. There's a late night menu of flavor packed bites in case you ate lightly at dinner. Tequila and mescal rule the bar with plenty of other variety to suit your tastes. How does a king or queen differ from a president? Are we sure everyone understands that difference? (401 7th St NW, Washington, DC)

## Great Evening 9: Pour on the fairy dust on 14<sup>th</sup> St NW

*Peter and the Starcatcher* is onstage Thursday - Saturday, Feb 9 – Mar 12. Top ticket price \$50.

A delicious meal, a fairy tale for grownups, and drinks after in a stylish bar will introduce you thoroughly to 14th St NW. During the first half of this decade, 14th St NW from Thomas Circle up to V St saw the birth of dozens of beautiful and buzzy restaurants, bars, and shops. Now, these blocks are an almost continuous parade of interesting places to poke into and interesting people poking in to them. This evening also takes you around the corner to U St NW, historically the home of the Harlem Renaissance's DC branch and once again a hopping entertainment district in its own right. Allow some time before dinner to cruise the strip and enjoy the scene. (Metro: U St/Cardozo.)

Start with dinner at **The Fainting Goat**, with a recycled-materials chic atmosphere and a short, high quality menu. Everything here is tasty, with fresh, local ingredients and inventive preparations. Specific offerings change with the seasons, but there are usually grilled meat or fish offerings suitable for two or more to share with lots of smaller dishes -- categorized as nibble, feed, or graze -- to have on the side or make a whole meal of. Service is friendly and attentive. Beverages are good in all categories, although they probably put the most love into their cocktails. There's seating on two levels with the main dining room up a short flight of stairs a hint more elegant while at-grade seating near the bar makes it easier to watch the rest of the crowd. (1330 U St NW, Washington, DC 202-735-0344 [faintinggoatdc.com](http://faintinggoatdc.com))

For a more casual and less expensive dinner, **Amsterdam Falafelshop** will take good care of you. You can get the yummy little morsels in pita-sandwich form or in a bowl with salad and a wide selection of condiments from a generous fixings bar. All of the ingredients are the equal of food we've eaten from much fancier Mediterranean restaurants. It's not gracious dining, but it's very tasty, quick, and affordable. No liquor license, so hit the bar at The Fainting Goat or choose another of the many bars nearby if you want a pre-show drink. (1830 14th St NW, Washington, D.C. [falafelshop.com](http://falafelshop.com))

*Peter and the Starcatcher* will rocket you into the origin story of Peter Pan. Constellation rocks at putting big, legendary stories on stage; so we're confident they'll shine with this one. Local star Dallas Tolentino, a man gravity barely notices, will play Peter with eye-blurring flourishes. From having seen this play before, we look forward to laughing at the uproarious pirate captain Black Stache and marveling at acrobatic actor bodies turned into walls and doors in a show that dances around the world too fast for scene changes. It's a chance for you to see a whole other world in the midst of your DC visit. (Constellation Theatre Company at Source Theater, 1835 14th Street NW, Washington, DC 202-204-7741 [constellationtheatre.org](http://constellationtheatre.org))

Knock back some post-show grog two doors down at **Bar Pilar** where the lavishness and nautical details of the décor and cocktails are almost as sparkly as a Constellation set. They often do drink offers to support shows, so ask whether they've got a Starcatcher special. Also, our Insider tip: look around for cast members. This is a popular post-show gathering place for them as well. How well did tonight's story set you up for the Peter Pan you know? (1833 14th St. NW, Washington, DC [barpilar.com](http://barpilar.com))

## Great Evening 10: Jump on some koopas in Bethesda

*Brother Mario* is onstage Thursday - Saturday, Feb 23 – Mar 19. Top ticket price \$35.

Tasty dinner at a cozy neighborhood standard and an existential crisis with a cartoon Italian plumber power up this evening in a lively Maryland town. It all takes place in Bethesda, a neighborhood just seven Metro stops from downtown Washington. Unfortunately as Insiders, we can tell you that there are few really worthwhile restaurants for a Great Evening Out in this D.C. suburb, but we've identified some winners for you. Wisconsin Avenue and Woodmont Avenue are the main streets on which to find hospitality and sparkle. (Metro: Bethesda)

**Persimmon** is a long-time favorite with locals in Bethesda. The staff are friendly and helpful. The food is delicious and thoughtfully prepared. Wine, beer, and cocktail selections are narrow but well chosen. The ambiance is welcoming and comfortable, though not as dazzling as some of our choices. It won out on charm and quality of service. We had a great meal by sharing a succession of starters – Tuna and avocado tartar, empanadas with fillings that change (ours had short rib), and a wonderful fennel and arugula salad. We didn't leave time for dessert, but diners at a nearby table looked happy with the molten chocolate cake. It's a "live like a local" experience you'll remember. (7003 Wisconsin Ave, Bethesda, MD 301-654-9860. [persimmonrestaurant.com](http://persimmonrestaurant.com))

Two cheaper choices this time: Either get to **Persimmon** during happy hour (4 PM – 7 PM) and cadge seats at the bar for discounts on beer and wine and shockingly low prices on many of their delightful dishes on smaller plates for easy sampling. Or go right next door to **Don Pollo** for yummy rotisserie chicken and great sides in a fast food but friendly atmosphere. If you opt for Pollo and want a beer before the show, head to the theater early. Flying V reliably has a few great brews in the bottle at concessions and often scatters the lobby with comic books and games. (7007 Wisconsin Ave, Bethesda, MD)

Is breaking blocks and rescuing princesses all there is to life? Flying V is a young company specializing in super heroes, pirates, and cartoons from their late 20th century childhoods. They electrify the stage with imagination and charm, collecting found material from every level of our shared culture and spreading it before us in magical collages. In this case, *Brother Mario* uses setting and characters from Nintendo's block buster video game series to tell a story of mid-life ennui informed by Chekhov plays. A workshop reading of this at a local comic convention left the audience cheering wildly last year. We expect you will award it 5 one-up mushrooms out of 5. (Flying V at the Bethesda Writers Center, 4508 Walsh St, Bethesda, MD No box office phone [flyingvtheatre.com](http://flyingvtheatre.com))

Have post-show drinks at **Villain & Saint**, a comfortable neighborhood bar two blocks north from the show. Strong selections are available in wine, beer, and cocktails. Who in your party remembers fighting Bowser in the guise of Mario? In what ways was their experience of the show different from those more innocent of video games? There's some chance the cast will turn up post-show. Feel free to share your feelings about the show with them. (7141 Wisconsin Ave, Bethesda, MD [villainandsaint.com](http://villainandsaint.com))

## Great Evening 11: Sour notes make a sweet night out in Shirlington

*Mrs Miller Does Her Thing* is onstage Tuesday - Saturday, Feb 28 – Mar 26. Top ticket price \$94.

Musicals fans will want to take a short road trip to see this quirky piece in an intimate setting. Shirlington is a Virginia suburb that is unfortunately poorly served by public transit, but we couldn't pass up the opportunity to let you know about this show. Signature Theatre sparks the passion and pride of theatre loving locals; also, it has won a regional Tony and has a special relationship with Broadway's great composers. If you love music driven shows, make the trek.

If you have a car, it's only a short drive out to Shirlington, or an uber or cab can take you. Rush hour traffic will slow your trip, so we suggest heading out from DC as close to 5 PM as possible. If dinner doesn't keep you busy right up to curtain, be aware that Signature has the nicest lobby bar of any DC area company.

Fortunately, good dining and drinking options abound in this enclave. Take a meal at **Copperwood Tavern** which looks woodsy and tastes great. It is a pubby farm-to-table restaurant with hearty dishes that will sit well on a winter evening. They also offer lighter bites in the bar area which has a wide selection of regional craft beers, good signature cocktails, and a decent wine list. Reservations recommended for the dining room (4021 Campbell Ave, Arlington, VA 703-552-8010 [copperwoodtavern.com](http://copperwoodtavern.com))

For a less expensive meal, go for sandwiches on fresh baked bread at **Best Buns**. This is a reliable spot for soups and salads as well. There are plenty of other restaurant options along the strip in Shirlington, so feel free to follow your nose. (4010 Campbell Ave, Arlington, VA)

Nowadays, you can get famous for being famous, right? A lot of us think that started with reality television, but it apparently goes back further than that. For a few strange years in the 1960's, a woman named Elva Miller had a popular musical career powered mostly by the fact that she didn't sing very well. This winter at Signature, TV star Debra Monk (who some of you remember loving on *Gray's Anatomy*) will recreate those strange years in *Mrs. Miller Does Her Thing*. It's in a small space, so you also have a famous person very near which makes the whole celebrity thing kind of circle around on itself. Get revved up by watching the real Elva Miller on YouTube then make the trip to Shirlington. (4200 Campbell Ave, Arlington, VA. 703-820-9771 [sigtheatre.org](http://sigtheatre.org))

**Ali's Bar** in the Signature Theatre lobby is usually open post-show for a nightcap. A great place to muse on a question like, what do you think you'll remember most about this performance years from now?

INSIDER TIP: We want to whet your appetite with some extra-credit research: first, [check out Elva Miller on YouTube](#), to get a sense of the phenomenon she was a part of. Second, star Debra Monk is delighting us in the [Amazon Prime Video series Mozart in the Jungle](#), which we recommend to any theater or classical music geek.

## The Insider's Guide to Making the Most of these Evenings

### Getting Around DC

Most of the neighborhoods where our packages send you are well served by public transportation – specifically by Metro Rail, the DC area's mostly underground train service. We've included Metro stop information for every destination.

Just a bit on street naming in DC to make all your other navigating easier.

**Quadrants:** The capitol building is the center of the grid for DC. From the dome, lines shoot out north, south, east, and west dividing the city into quadrants. The quadrant a place is in is part of its address. All of the city in the arc between the line going north and the line going east is in Northeast, and likewise for the other four quadrants. There are miles of distance between 410 15th St SE and 410 15th St NW, so it's important to pay attention to the quadrants.

**Street names:** Numbered streets run north to south with the numbers rising as you get further from the capitol. Lettered streets run east to west going further along the alphabet as you get further from the capitol. Getting further north or south, you run out of alphabet and go to two syllable names, once again in alphabetical order (Adams, Bryant, Channing . . .). Beyond that it's three syllable names to the edges of the city. The base blocks are large, so many blocks in residential areas are broken in half by an intermediate street that can be called anything, although often the intermediate number streets are the same number but called a "Place" instead of a "Street." The intermediate alphabet names often start with the same letter as the nearest letter street (Riggs is between R and S). State named avenues run at diagonals and are confusing until you learn them and wonderful short cuts once you do.

**Getting Around on Foot:** DC is an incredibly walkable city, with wide sidewalks, very visible and consistent street signs, and a reasonably compact downtown. In the sorts of restaurant-filled and nightlife-intensive neighborhoods we're sending you to, street crime is unusual – you should feel as safe as you would in any major city. With your newfound understanding of the quadrants and the street names, we'd encourage you to wear comfortable shoes and assume that you can get to these restaurants, theaters and bars on foot once you're within a half a mile.

**Metro Rail and Bus:** DC rush hour traffic is awful, so public transportation, particularly Metro Rail which is our local subway system, is going to be your friend. The subway lines are distinguished by color. Which train you want is indicated by the name of the station at the end of the line. You can get maps of the system and learn about fares and other details at [wmata.com](http://wmata.com). You'll need to buy a SmarTrip card to get started; it's a plastic card (like a credit card) that is available from machines at the Metro stations. You load value into it at the station using cash or a credit/debit card, and touch the SmarTrip card to a sensor as you enter (and leave!) a Metro station, or when you get on a Metro Bus, to pay your fare for each trip.

**Smart Phone Maps and Directions:** Your other good friend getting around DC is going to be the smart phone you probably already own. The various map applications for smart phones (we're Google Maps fans, but others work, too) can be very helpful visiting an unfamiliar city. You probably already know you can type in an address then make the map give you driving directions. Most of these applications can also give walking directions and transit directions, by clicking on a button with a walking figure or a train car. The walking and transit data for these applications are quite accurate in and around DC. Our



evening out descriptions will contain addresses for all the restaurants, bars, and theaters. Your phone can help you get there.

**Uber:** If you do need to get someplace distant along surface roads and don't have a car along, Uber is probably your best option. If you're not familiar with Uber, it includes a smart phone app that a passenger uses to request a ride, while drivers use an app to agree to provide rides. Under normal conditions, you can get a ride through Uber within minutes almost anywhere in the DC area. Learn more at [uber.com](http://uber.com), and consider getting your account set up before visiting DC. We don't have any financial interest in Uber. We just find it very useful ourselves when we're away from home.

**Taxi cabs:** In most of the neighborhoods where our evenings out send you, there will also be DC cabs driving around. You can hail a cab on the street; you'll be able to tell which cabbies are taking passengers by the lighted sign on the top of the cab. DC cabs use a meter system for figuring out how much you need to pay. We suggest using cash for taxis if at all possible: Many drivers need your payment in cash, and some who take credit cards add a substantial convenience fee if you pay that way.

Between a little sense of how the city is laid out, your feet, the trains, Uber and taxis, you should have an easy time following along on any evening out. If we've ever suggested anything that gets you confused or lost, we apologize, and please let us know so we can fix it in the future.

## Getting Your Theatre Tickets

As theater Insiders, we are so delighted that DC has great shows from small 50-seat spaces to the most magnificent 500-seat halls. We're focusing our advice in this book on the middle-sized theaters, where tickets generally run from \$30 to \$100.

For each show, we've listed the top ticket price for the most expensive night a show is on, to give you a relative sense (or worst-case-scenario?) of the cost of attending. We've also put a link to the theater website on each show, and the box office phone number. These are convenient options and guarantee you a seat on the night you'd like to attend.

If you buy in advance through the box office at a theater where the top price is over \$60, you may find a cheaper ticket by buying a ticket for a weeknight instead of weekend, or for a side-section seat instead of a front-and-center seat.

Most of the shows we're recommending are in theaters where you'll have an assigned seat, and buying in advance through the box office lets you choose the best seat available when you buy.

But let's not stop there – read on for advice on the many, many discounts available for theater seats in DC.

## Cheap Seats

Who doesn't love a deal? Let's get to work buying our theater tickets armed with the knowledge of Insiders.

Even at the larger theaters with the most expensive tickets, you can usually get a deal with some advance planning, and at the medium-sized and small theaters, deals abound all the time. Of course, the bigger the discount compared to top ticket prices, the less likely you'll be in a prime front-and-center seat. That being said, in most of these theaters, every seat is quite good.

Here are our best Insider Tips for getting a theater ticket at the best prices.

**Discount Websites:** There are two popular ticket discounting websites that aggregate ticket discounts for theaters in DC : goldstar.com and culturecapital.tix. Locals who use them sign up for their email newsletters to scan deals that are usually available for tickets in the coming week, though sometimes there are early-bird discounts a month or two out. The deals are also listed on their websites, updated more than once a day, so you can go and scan that. Most (but not all) of the shows in this guide are likely to have tickets available through the discounters, and tickets are usually half off the "retail" price.

**Pay What You Want Performances:** Some of these theaters offer "pay what you want"/"pay what you can", often called PWYC, performances on a walk-up basis a couple of hours before the show, either occasionally or all the time. We are fans of PWYC, which generally draws a diverse, fun audience. We can promise that even if you only want to pay \$5 you will be admitted and there is no shame in it. However, if you are willing to pay \$20 or \$40 per ticket, which we consider a more equitable yet still bargain rate for the theaters that offer these discounts, you will be greeted with a smile and a hearty thanks!

**Social Media Discounts:** Many theaters announce discount codes for website purchases through their Facebook listings, email lists, and twitter accounts. If you read this guide before your trip and get really interested in a particular show, you might try following the theater on social media, to look for a discount code.

**Youth Discounts:** We long ago aged out of these great deals, but if you are 30 years old or younger, many of the theaters offer youth discounts that you should take advantage of as they tend to be pretty good deals at these mid-size theaters. You may need to phone or visit the box office to buy your tickets rather than using the website. The theater may not offer you the discount unless you ask for it, so do ask. Usually youth discounts apply only to the eligible person/people, and not to us oldsters who may be in their party.

**Military Discounts:** Many DC area theaters offer discounts for active duty US military and veterans. Again, phoning the box office is probably the easiest way to take advantage of this discount if you are eligible.

**“Rush” Tickets and General Discounting on the Evening of the Show:** Some theatres offer last minute rush tickets in the hour before performance. This is a somewhat risky maneuver to undertake, as obviously if the show has sold out, you won’t be able to get in. If you decide to take this route, you again might have to ask for the rush seat discount. Certainly, if you haven’t bought tickets in advance because you weren’t sure how your day was going to turn out, be sure to ask for any discounts when you buy at the box office, as you may be pleasantly surprised.

## DC Playgoing Primer

Most of you can skip this chapter, but we have heard from some people that they were reluctant to attend a play partly because they didn't know what to expect or what was expected of them. The next few pages contain some selected Insider wisdom and should banish any concerns.

### Playgoing Glossary

Here are some terms you may not be familiar with that you'll hear in the course of seeing a play.

**Curtain or curtain time** – the time at which the show is scheduled to begin performing. By curtain time, the whole audience should be seated, so show up 10-15 minutes before curtain. Some shows have seating breaks to allow late arriving audience members to sneak in after the show has started, but some do not.

**Lobby** – This is the space where the audience waits before taking their seats. It will usually have some seating, bathrooms, and often a concession area where you can buy food and drink.

**Program or Playbill** – At most plays, you will be handed a little booklet that includes some writing about the play and some background information on all the people involved in creating the play. For some plays, there will be an overview of the parts of the play telling you when and where they happen. Finally, if it's a musical, there will be a list of all the songs and when they happen in the performance.

**House** – This is the part of the theater where audience members sit. You'll hear this term if you show up early for a show. When the staff of the theater are ready for you to take your seats, someone will announce "The house is now open."

**Rake** – Rake is the angle at which the seats in the house are arranged relative to each other. Usually, each row back is at least a little higher than the row in front so everyone can see over the heads of the audience members in front of them. Some houses are essentially staircases. Some are flatter. You might want to think about the rake of the theater when you decide where to sit.

**Reserved seating** - Some plays have reserved seating – your ticket will have an address on it, usually a letter and a number, like C19. There are almost always ushers in the auditorium whose job it is to help you find your seats

**General admission** - Other shows are General Admission, in which case your tickets will say that or just GA. In that case, everyone who has bought a ticket is free to select a seat from those in the auditorium that are not yet occupied. Some people are very selective about where they sit, and so intentionally show up well before curtain time to have their choice of seats.

**Intermission** – Many plays are too long for the audience to comfortably sit through the whole performance in one go. Intermission is a 10-15 minute break to allow people to stretch, pee, buy more treats or drinks, and talk about how the play is going. When the lights go out on stage and come up on the house and the actors don't all line up on the front of the stage to let you clap for them, it's probably intermission. Towards the end of intermission, theater staff will let you know, often by flashing the

lights in the lobby, making verbal announcements, or playing tiny xylophones. Any one of those is a signal for you to get back to your seat.

**Curtain call** – At the end of the play, the actors come out on stage and bow for applause. This is called a curtain call and is a chance for the audience to show appreciation. Some audience members will stand up and keep clapping. This is supposed to be reserved for extraordinary performances, but in some theaters, it becomes the norm. Never feel pressured to join the standing ovation, but if you feel moved to, feel free.

**Theater/Theatre** – Some people will tell you that these are just the American English and Queen’s English ways of spelling the same word, like color/colour. Many American theatre artists use theater to mean the building and the auditorium and theatre to mean the art form. The “It’s just two spellings” people think the “Building/art form” people are effete snobs. So now you know a little piece of theatrical controversy.

## Frequently asked questions

**Where should I sit?** This is largely a matter of taste, but there are a few things to think about. We always try to sit towards the center of the house from left to right and in the most forward row where our knees will be above the floor of the stage. In some highly raked houses, the very front rows are below the floor of the stage, and you’re likely to wear your neck out looking up at the action. If your show has reserved seats, you’ll decide where to sit when you buy your tickets, and tickets for sections closer to front and center may cost more those further away. If the show is general admission, you’ll be able to choose your seat based on what seats are not yet occupied when you enter the house. People at the box office can help you choose a good seat.

**How should I dress to go to a play?** This is up to you. Some people treat going to a play as a big deal date night and dress up to impress whoever they are going with. Lots of people in DC dash over straight from the office, wearing whatever they wore to work. In any audience, you’ll see suits and jeans and everything in between. We see Miss District of Columbia in her crown in an audience occasionally, so clearly anything goes. It can be good to have something warm you can get into and out of easily, since temperatures inside the auditorium may swing around between air conditioning and heat from the lights.

**Can I take food and drinks to my seat?** This varies by theater. Many DC theaters now allow drinks to the seats as long as they aren’t in glass containers. Usually, there will be signs near the entrance to the house that tell you if drinks are prohibited. Any staff member in the lobby can also tell you.

**How should I behave during the show?** Most plays expect the audience to sit quietly, except for laughter or gasps caused by the action of the play – those, they love. Evidence that the show is reaching you is welcome. Audible conversation between audience members is usually not as welcome. Cell phones ringing or otherwise making noise or lighting up are particularly irksome to the people on stage and other audience members. You’ll probably hear an announcement before the show asking you to silence or turn off anything that might make a noise or a light and asking you not to text during the show. All of this is just part of the audience making a shared effort to allow everyone to pay attention to the play. When a play works right, audience members are pulled into a whole world being created on stage. Distractions can make it harder for people to go on that journey.

**What if I'm not having a good time?** First, know that if it's a play we recommended to you, we would apologize to you in person if we could. Never let seeing a play turn into a waste of time. You should only leave during the action if you are ill or if the play is offending your deepest values. If the play has an intermission, and you're not liking what you're seeing, just leave. If you still trust us enough, go check out the bar we recommended and talk with your companions about what you didn't like. What could have made it better? Though we are great theatre lovers, we leave plays at intermission from time to time; sometimes because we're not enjoying them, but often because we feel that particular play showed us everything we needed from it in act one. If you think of it later, send us a message to let us know what show didn't work for you and why. We plan to keep making this guide and want to get better at recommending shows people will probably like.

**OK, I did like the play, curtain call is over, what now?** You can just scoot to the bar and talk about the play with your friends, make plans for tomorrow, then tuck your weary tourist feet into bed. However, if an actor in the play did work you really appreciated, you could ask a theater staff member in the lobby where the actors come out. Here in DC, that will usually just be a particular door in the lobby, but some theaters have a special stage door that separates the actors and the audience. In either case, you can plant yourself near said door and wait a while. Most actors take 5-10 minutes after the show to get into street clothes – longer if they end the show covered in stage blood, silly string, or blue paint. Once he or she is ready for the world again though, almost every actor appreciates an audience member hanging around to deliver a few words of praise.

**Why are they asking me for a donation?** Virtually all of the shows we'll be recommending are performed by not-for-profit theatre companies. That means donations make up a substantial part of their income, and that everyone working on it is doing it not to get rich but to keep the art form alive. Because of this, you are likely to hear a pitch either before or after the show to contribute money. If you feel called to donate, please do, and thanks in advance. However, even if you got your tickets at a deep discount, don't let the pitch make you feel obligated to donate. Being in the audience, paying attention, and remembering what you saw are the really important things you bring as an audience member. Any donation is frosting.

**How do you choose the Great Evenings Out?** Our research for these evenings starts with analyzing two factors: great theater performances, and great evening-out neighborhoods. We cull through the list of shows that are coming up onstage, in neighborhoods with good dining and nightlife options and easy transportation (well, mostly – sorry about Shirlington). We choose shows based first on how fun or audience-friendly they look; then on other factors we can figure out from the description and our many years of attending theater (who is in the cast, other shows by the same playwright, companies that excel in producing the kind of show we're recommending, things that have "buzz" amongst our fellow theater-going friends); then on ensuring we've got a good spread of neighborhoods and evenings of performance.

Then we pair the shows with nearby restaurants and bars that we've eaten at and enjoyed, or that come with strong reliable recommendations from friends. If we can find something "theme-y" (French restaurant with a show set in Paris, for instance), we like to add to the fun that way, but we won't do it at the expense of a good meal. We try to give a couple of dining options along the price spectrum. Most of these neighborhoods have several restaurants and bars, but we'll let you know if not. We have no affiliation with any of the bars or restaurants and don't take payment or other consideration for recommendations.

We have myriad affiliations with lots of theaters in town. But that said, we are also genuinely committed to letting you know about fun and/or thoughtful evenings out, and won't be recommending all of the shows at our affiliated theaters to you, as much as we adore them. Not all of them are the best night-on-the-town fit for the time period we're covering. We promise to be as impartial as two mega-fans can be, and hope you can trust our recommendations. We don't take any payment or other consideration for our show recommendations either.

## Thank You for Reading Our E-Book!

Thank you for reading our book. We hope you are impressed, like us, with the variety, quality and depth of entertainment and dining options in and around Washington DC.

We're delighted to be releasing this, the SECOND edition of our e-book, and we plan to continue to update it in the future and release further editions. Additionally, we have a website, [greateveningsout.com](http://greateveningsout.com), where we'll include other tips as we learn of them, including new restaurant and show information. Please visit us there.

We would love your input, both about the evenings and about the book -- please, please drop us a line to let us know if you had a good evening out based on this advice, or if you think we are missing something. The secrets of Insiders are garnered from a constant stream of advice and feedback; we need your notes and suggestions. [peteandsara@greateveningsout.com](mailto:peteandsara@greateveningsout.com).



## About Us

We are theater enthusiasts and restaurant fans based in Washington DC.

After a career in Information Technology, Pete has taken his love of the performing arts and his management expertise to become a nationally-recognized arts administration adviser. He is a member of the Theater Communication Group's Art of Governance Task Force and serves on the board of Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company. Pete brews his own beer, owns over 300 board games, and almost cannot stand absurdist theater.

Sara is a native Washingtonian and has done stints in journalism, web development and health care reform. She currently serves on the board of the DC Public Library Foundation and is excited to help support the modernization project for the city's historic central library. She is the keeper of her book club's historic record, webmaster of her sewing club, and an elementary school literacy tutor. Of course, she loves absurdist theater.

We met and started dating in 1992. Our earliest Great Evenings Out together looked a lot like these, and we are delighted to share the concept with you. Evenings like these have brought us over two decades of happiness, and this project continues to bring us many more.

You can reach us at [peteandsara@greateveningsout.com](mailto:peteandsara@greateveningsout.com).