



WASHINGTON'S BOHEMIA (1930s-1970s)

Several of the former stables in St. Matthew's Court were used in the early 1930s as artists' studios and residences. A *Washington Post* Article from 1934 compared this "labyrinth of studios" to New York's Greenwich Village and Paris' Latin Quarter. The alley was also home to the Theater Lobby – Washington's quaint off-Broadway theater that operated from the 1950s-70s. Artists and entertainers with studios in St. Matthew's Court included:

Brian Brown, Artist/Caricaturist
Catherine Critcher, Artist
Bjorn Egeli, Portrait Painter
Christian D. Hemmick, Actor
Bruce Moore (1905-1980), Artist
Dan Rhodes, Mural Painter
Edward Rowan (1898-1946), Sculptor
George Julian Zoinay, Sculptor



Washington's Bohemia

Close by on every side, Washington's noisy traffic throbs . . . but within the haven of St. Matthew's Court, silence hangs like a veil. Here is the Capital's Bohemia . . . a little labyrinth of studios, formerly stables, where live painters, sculptors and artists are supposed to have a peculiar genius for other things besides painting. Yet, while New York's Greenwich Village may be fertile ground for wild life and Paris' Latin Quarter the perfect setting for Bacchanalian orgies . . . Washington's Bohemia has only decorum, peace, a certain quaint, well-flavored beauty . . . and a white rabbit named Kiki. Virginia Lee Warren introduces Post readers to St. Matthew's Court in a fascinating story today.

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(Left) Edward Beatty Rowan in his St. Matthew's Court studio and apartment, Washington D.C. ca. 1932 / Lewis P. Woltz, photographer. Edward Beatty Rowan papers, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

(Top) "Washington's Bohemia," Washington Post, November 7, 1934

Theater Promptbook

3 Summer Plays At Theater Lobby

THEATER LOBBY will present a summer season of three plays in its converted carriage house theater at 17 St. Matthew's ct. nw. behind St. Matthew's Cathedral.

On June 8, T. S. Eliot's "The Cocktail Party" will open a four-week run. "A Doll's House," by Hendrick Ibsen, is to be presented from July 13 to Aug. 5. The production will be directed by Frank Johns. On Aug. 17 a production of Noel Coward's "Hay Fever," directed by Raynor Clark, will begin a run through Sept. 9.

Performances begin at 8:30 p.m. Thursday through Sunday evenings. For reservations and ticket information call EX 3-5818.

An audition for "A Doll's House" will be held at Theater Lobby at 3 p.m. today.

THE GREAT FALLS PLAYERS will present "Ladies in Retirement," an English suspense drama by Edward Percy and Reginald Denham, for four performances beginning on Friday at 8:30 p.m. in the Great Falls Grange Hall. Subsequent evening performances will be on Saturday and on Friday and Saturday, June 9 and 10, all at 8:30.

THE RESTON PLAYERS' "Evening of Tennessee Williams" concludes with a performance of three Williams one-act plays, "Moony's Kid Don't Cry," "Lady of Larkspur Lotion" and "Suddenly Last Summer," at 7:30 p.m. today in the Reston Commu-

Performances are held in Grace Church, 1041 Wisconsin ave. nw. For ticket information and reservations call 963-0393.

THE SHAKESPEARE Society of Washington will perform Shakespeare's "The Tempest" today at 3 p.m. in St. Thomas Church, 18th and P sts. nw. Tickets are priced at \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for students. They are available at the church. The production will have its final three performances Friday and Saturday at 8:30 and Sunday, June 4, at 3 p.m. Call DI 7-8801 for reservations.

GOE VIDAL'S "Romulus," produced by the Little Theater of Alexandria, will have a matinee at 3 p.m. today in the Little Theater, 600 Wolfe st. The play resumes on Thursday for three final performances through Saturday, all at 8:30 p.m. For reservations call 683-0496 between noon and 4 p.m. or 7 and 9 p.m.

A SUMMER workshop program in acting techniques, directing, mime and playwriting will be held by Theater Arts Research at the Market Playhouse, 1039 31st st. nw., beginning on Monday, June 5. Registration is on Thursday and Friday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. For further information call FE 8-9232.

LITTLE THEATER of Alexandria will hold final auditions for men and women



(Top) Christian Hemmick (Actor who lived in St. Matthew's Court), Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

(Left) "3 Summer Plays at Theater Lobby," Washington Post, May 26, 1967.