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OLDCASTLE THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS ACCLAIMED PRODUCTION OF TRYING

May 11, 2008, Bennington, VT — TRYING, Joanna McClelland Glass' examination of the memorable life of one of the twentieth century's great Americans has been produced by more than thirty theatres across the country and garnered a slew of superlatives.

"I had heard of the play from several theatre friends, all of whom urged me to read it," said Oldcastle's Producing Artistic Director, Eric Peterson. "I read it and was much taken with the play's humour, pathos and heart. Barbara Beckley of the Colony Theatre of Burbank, California told me it was one of the most popular plays they have ever presented. They brought it back for an additional run this year. When Steve Karp, Producer of Stamford Theatre Works, called to tell me Paul Falzone was giving the performance of his life in TRYING I knew we had to bring it to Bennington."

Paul Falzone is a founding member of Oldcastle. He has made more than forty appearances as an actor with the company and has directed and written several plays produced by Oldcastle. "Paul is a real favorite with our audience," Peterson noted. "He has given memorable performances here in TERRA NOVA, 'THE PRICE' A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE" and "INHERIT THE WIND" as well as many other plays so it seemed ideal to begin our 2008 season with Paul in TRYING. We were lucky enough to get Jane Elliott, who played the role of Sarah, based on playwright Glass, in Stamford to also join us. They are brilliant together."

When TRYING was first produced by Stamford Theatre Works critics were extravagant in their praise. The Fairfield County Weekly wrote: "Paul Falzone...delivers the most complete and beautiful performance I have seen in any production at any theater this season. By turns, irascible and caring, selfish and selfless, (he) carries us through the entire spectrum of emotion." The Middletown Press praised his cast mate writing: "Jane Elliott is lovingly patient and steel magnolia strong as she deals with the demands of Paul Falzone's indomitable Judge Biddle. The two are a delight to watch in this ping-pong ball game of wills."

In the autumn of 1967 playwright Glass began working as a secretary to Francis Biddle. He was 81 at the time. He had been Attorney General under Franklin Roosevelt, 1941-1945. In 1946, Harry Truman appointed him to be Chief American Judge of the International Military Tribunal at the Nuremberg Trials. On her first day of employment Biddle told her, quite emphatically, that he was certain he was in the final year of life.

Judge Biddle was a "Main Line Philadelphia" Biddle, a man whose family came to the colonies from England in 1681. Upon arriving, his first American ancestor, William Biddle, purchased 43,000 acres of what is now New Jersey from William Penn. Ms. Glass, described herself as a green young girl from the Canadian prairie. Her native city, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, was incorporated in 1906. In 1906 the young Francis Biddle was an undergraduate at Harvard, soon to enter Harvard Law School. The play concerns the several months the two spent "trying" to negotiate and span their enormous differences of youth and age, of class and culture.

TRYING opens Friday May 16th at the Bennington Center for the Arts. A reception featuring delicious food from Four Chimneys and wine donated by Sante Magazine.

Perfromances at Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. and Thursday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 to \$34.00 and student are \$10.00. For additional information visit the Oldcastle website at [:www.oldcastleheatreco.org](http://www.oldcastleheatreco.org) or call 802-447-0564.