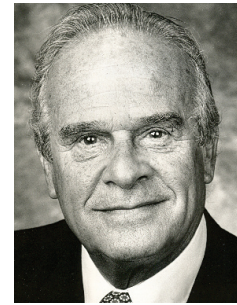


Following his dream

By: Yohana de la Torre

“Acting is a need to communicate and express yourself, your feelings and thoughts with other people.”



Actor, David S. Howard

David S. Howard couldn't have said it better, "Actors need to possess a tremendous drive and a tremendous sense of imagination and wonder for this business."

And for over 40 years, Howard has been bringing that drive and wonder to stages all over the country.

"I didn't start studying acting until I was about over 30," he admits. "I had been a lawyer before that and I switched to theatre because that's what I always wanted to do. Becoming a lawyer was what was expected of me. I was really following others dreams, rather than my own. So, one day I decided to begin studying and hit the stage."

Howard studied acting at his Westchester County neighborhood playhouse before graduating from Brandeis University. He taught for a couple of years in the 1970s and returned to New York to act because that's really what was in his heart.

"Acting is a need to communicate and express yourself, your feelings and thoughts with other people," he says. "There's a lot I've always wanted to say and communicate, and that has always been my driving force."



David S. Howard and Rachel Burttram in *Trying*.

That compelling energy in theatre has taken Howard to stages all over the country. He's starred in roles on Broadway, including *I'm Not Rappaport* and on film in *Moonstruck*, *Deconstructing Harry*, *Meet Joe Black* and many more. He is a long-time resident company member at the Asolo Repertory Theatre in Sarasota, and has become a familiar face on the stages of Florida Repertory Theatre with brilliant roles in *The Last Romance*, *Visiting Mr. Green* and recently *You Can't Take It With You* to name a few.

Currently, Howard is preparing

for his latest role in *Trying*, a gripping drama written by Tony-nominated playwright, Joanna McClelland Glass. The play is an autobiographical drama that chronicles the year Ms. Glass (played by Rachel Burttram) spent as the secretary to Judge Francis Biddle, the former Attorney General under FDR and judge at the Nuremburg Trials.

This time, the actor says he couldn't be more excited for his role, "My character is based on a real character, Judge Francis Biddle. The play takes part in the last year of his life, when he's 81, and he's trying to wrap

up a lot of unfinished business. I'm excited for this role because I'm 81-years-old now and I like doing plays that are meaningful to me, not just character roles. And that's what I like about my character in *Trying*."

He goes on to explain that the story Glass puts forth is interesting in that it causes "two people with a vast gulf between them to come together and form a bond."

The brilliant play touches home for the seasoned actor in that it brings him to a role not distant from himself. He describes that the essence of his character will show audiences a meaningful story about age and social classes, but most importantly life.

"It is a very difficult play," he adds. "But Rachel is wonderful to work with, and our characters have a fascinating and great influence on each other. It will really pay off and the audiences will get a lot out of it."

-*Trying* is playing at the Florida Repertory Theatre April 9 – 25. The Florida Repertory Theatre is located on Bay Street in the Historic Arcade Theatre. For tickets, call the Box Office at (239) 332-4488 or visit www.floridarep.org.