

# The New Criterion

## Theater

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### Stonewall Jackson slept here

by [Mark Steyn](#)

On Stonewall Jackson's House & Play On!

The London producer Thelma Holt was in New York a couple of weeks back, to look in on one of her plays but also to bring a briefcase full of postal voting forms in order to cajole the hordes of British actors treading the boards in Manhattan to participate in the UK general election. And on whose behalf was she going to all this trouble? “Who d’you think?” she retorted. “I wouldn’t be lugging the forms halfway round the world in order to get people to vote Tory.”

It’s perfectly reasonable for actors to be left-wing: most of them spend most of their time either unemployed or earning a pittance. At first, it’s not so bad: they have the same kind of seedy bedsits as their old school chums, who are training to be accountants, salesmen, lawyers, store managers. A few years on, the actor still has his seedy bedsit, while his pals have moved on to homes in the subu  
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**Mark Steyn**’s most recent book is *America Alone: The End of the World As We Know It* (Regnery). His writing on politics, arts and culture can be read around the world. Mark is Senior North American Columnist of Britain’s Telegraph Group, and appears in The Daily Telegraph, the United Kingdom’s biggest-selling broadsheet daily, and The Sunday Telegraph; he is also North American Editor and Film Critic of The Spectator, the oldest continuously-published magazine in the English language. In Canada, he can be read in The National Post, the country’s new national newspaper. In the United States, Mark is theatre critic of The New Criterion and a columnist for The Chicago Sun-Times. His latest book, *Broadway Babies Say Goodnight*, was published to critical acclaim in London and to somewhat sniffier reviews in New York.

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