



NEWS RELEASE

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COMMONWEAL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS *SYLVIA*

LANESBORO, MINN. — The Commonweal Theatre Company presents A.R. Gurney's comedy *Sylvia*, May 21st through August 19th with discounted tickets available for previews May 13th to May 20th. Call the box office at 800-657-7025 or visit Commonweal Theatre online at www.commonwealththeatre.org for exact performance dates and times.

Greg is a middle-aged financial trader in the midst of questioning where his career and his life have taken him so far, when a chance meeting with a stray dog in the park turns his entire world upside-down. This outrageous comedy challenges everything we think we know about love, sex, relationships, and the meaning of life.

Sylvia's director, Alan Bailey, returns to Lanesboro having previously directed Commonweal productions of 1940's *Radio Hour*, *Art*, *Inspecting Carol*, and most recently, *Harvey*. "What sets *Sylvia* apart and makes it memorable and fun," Bailey says, "is that an actress plays Sylvia, a poodle-lab mix. But this isn't an attempt at a faithful recreation of a dog, but an artist using her human body and voice and expressions to convey Sylvia as a full-realized character in the play."

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Pet-lovers will undoubtedly recognize how powerful a force for change “Sylvia” proves to be in this play. “Without question, pets have the ability to change our lives,” Bailey adds. “If you invite your pet to truly be a member of your family - and increasingly, many of us invite pets into our homes to fill larger and more meaningful roles - then they absolutely become friends and confidantes and combatants.”

The love triangle in *Sylvia* features Twin Cities acting duo Phil Losacker and Kirby Bennett as Greg and his much-irked wife Kate with Commonweal Resident Artist Adrienne Sweeney as the titular *Sylvia*, who provides sudden competition with Kate for Greg’s time and affection. The cast is joined by Commonweal Resident Artist Scott Dixon playing triple roles of a fellow dog-lover in the park, an old college friend of Kate’s, and a marriage counselor.

Daniel Stock serves as stage manager and leads the production team consisting of designers Stan Peal (sets and sound), Jason Underferth (lights), Claire Kenning (props) and Janis Martin (costumes).

Thanks to support from F&M Community Bank, special weekday matinee performances are available for school groups at only \$3 per person which includes a study guide, pre-show classroom workshop, and post-performance discussion with the actors.

All performances are at the Commonweal Theatre, 208 Parkway Avenue North in downtown Lanesboro. Ticket prices are \$30, with discounts available for students, and groups of ten or more. Employees and residents of Fillmore and Houston Counties are offered free admission to the preview performance on Thursday, May 19th. For ticket reservations or information about any Commonweal events or programs, call 800-657-7025 or 507-467-2905, or email tickets@commonwealththeatre.org.

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