

JEWEL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

# SYLVIA

by A.R. Gurney

A modern romantic comedy  
about marriage. . . **and a dog.**



**May 3-28, 2017**

The Colligan Theater at the Tannery Arts Center

**JTC**  
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COMPANY



I remember years ago an interview with actor Treat Williams in which he talked about how much he looked forward to work every day when doing the movie HAIR, that it brought such love and joy to his life that year. In remounting our production of SYLVIA 8 years after the original, I know the joy he spoke of. Not only has A.R. Gurney written an extremely humorous play, but getting to do it with such talented, generous, and innately funny actors who also happen to be my friends, has been a cathartic process with restorative power over all ailments emotional and physical. The constant giddiness and laughter that marked each and every one of our rehearsals as we cracked each other up despite our efforts to stay in the scene would have driven any director (and stage manager) crazy. However, in our case, our director welcomed our willingness to trust and laugh and goof with each other, knowing it made for some wonderful discoveries about the play and the relationships we never explored the first time around. As we bring our 12th season to a close with this play, it is my hope that the world we've created on our stage brings a little bit of that same joy to your life.

The close of our current season also means there is a new season waiting to begin. Next year we offer you the remarkable playwrighting talent of Arthur Miller and Neil Simon, the sassy and sultry music of Patsy Cline, the vast and challenging world of astronomy and female scientists at the turn of the 20th century, and a World Premiere of a serious comedy about love and renewal by our own Kate Hawley. I hope you'll join us.

As always, THANK YOU for supporting professional theatre in Santa Cruz.

**Julie James**  
Artistic Director

# SYLVIA

by A.R. Gurney

Director . . . . .	Diana Torres Koss
Scenic Designer . . . . .	Skip Epperson
Lighting Designer . . . . .	Kurt Landisman^
Costume Designer . . . . .	B. Modern^
Sound Designer . . . . .	Diana Torres Koss & John Koss
Media Designer . . . . .	Steve Gerlach
Properties Master . . . . .	Shaun Carroll
Technical Director . . . . .	Steve Gerlach
Stage Manager . . . . .	Emerson Sanderson*
Dramaturge . . . . .	Susan Myer Siltan
Master Carpenter . . . . .	Mark Hoagland
Master Electrician . . . . .	Colin Landeck
Paint Charge . . . . .	Rick Ortenblad
Crew . . . . .	Cameron Clause
. . . . .	Micaela Sinclair
. . . . .	Christopher Hackett
Office Manager . . . . .	Jacque James
Box Office Manager . . . . .	Mary James
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Photographer . . . . .	Steve DiBartolomeo



\*Member, Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

^ Member, United Scenic Artists union

SYLVIA is produced by special arrangement with Dramatist's Play Service, Inc., New York.

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This production is funded, in part, by grants from the following organizations:

The Shubert Foundation



Cast (in order of appearance):

Greg . . . . .	Shaun Carroll*
Sylvia . . . . .	Julie James*
Kate . . . . .	Diahanna Davidson*
Tom/Phyllis/Leslie . . . . .	J.T. Holstrom*

Setting/Story:

Empty nesters Greg and Kate have moved back to Manhattan after twenty-two years in the suburbs. As Kate tells Greg: “The dog phase of my life is definitely over.” But life has a way of giving you what you think you don’t want. Greg finds Sylvia, a street-smart lab/poodle mix, and brings her home. She promptly becomes a bone of contention between Greg and Kate, testing their marriage to hilarious and touching effect.

\*Member, Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

Please turn off your cell phone.

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.

Special Thanks

Sophia James	Santa Cruz Shakespeare
J.T. Holstrom	William & Nancy Levonian
Jessica Carter	Cindy Margolin & Mike Bentzen
Joie1437	Chris & Melita Tedesco
Marcel Tjioe	
Cabrillo TheatreArts	This program was printed by Mpress Digital.

Jewel Theatre Company

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Sandra Cohen	Corrina McFarlane	Mary K. & Bill Simpson
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Norma Del Gaudio	Alice Mestemacher	Cynthia Smith
Joan DeNeffe & Gary Silberstein	Marguerite Meyer	Nevin Smith
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William Heid	Douglas Plante	John Wells, woodturner
Cheryl & Steve Hernandez	Anna Plozay	Haig White
Dennis Kalaf	Gabrielle Ravina	Sara Wilbourne
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**In Memory of Sandra Burroughs Holland** The following gift was received in memory of Sandra Burroughs Holland: Bay Alexander; Anonymous (2), Tom Holland

We apologize if there is an error in the listing of your name or if you have been inadvertently omitted. Please contact us at [admin@jeweltheatre.net](mailto:admin@jeweltheatre.net) or (831) 425-7506 so we can correct our records.



## A.R. Gurney

**Plays:** SCENES FROM AMERICAN LIFE, CHILDREN, THE DINING ROOM, THE MIDDLE AGES, RICHARD CORY, THE GOLDEN AGE, WHAT I DID LAST SUMMER, THE WAYSIDE MOTOR INN, SWEET SUE, THE PERFECT PARTY,

ANOTHER ANTIGONE, THE COCKTAIL HOUR, LOVE LETTERS, THE SNOW BALL (adapted from his novel), THE OLD BOY, THE FOURTH WALL, LATER LIFE, A CHEEVER EVENING, SYLVIA, OVERTIME, LET'S DO IT (A COLE PORTER MUSICAL), LABOR DAY, FAR EAST, DARLENE AND THE GUEST LECTURER, ANCESTRAL VOICES.

**Opera:** wrote libretto for STRAWBERRY FIELDS, with music by Michael Torke, part of the Central Park Opera trilogy presented by the New York City Opera in the Fall of 1999.

**Novels:** "The Gospel According to Joe," "Entertaining Strangers," and "The Snow Ball."

**Awards:** Drama Desk, N.E.A., Rockefeller Foundation, New England Theatre Conference, Lucille Lortel, American Association of Community Theatres, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.

**Honorary degrees:** Williams College and Buffalo State University. Gurney was on the faculty of M.I.T. until 1996.

He is the husband of one, father of four, and grandfather of six. [www.argurney.com](http://www.argurney.com)



## CAST



**Shaun Carroll** (Greg) is very grateful to be working fulltime with Jewel Theatre Company. He last appeared on stage with Jewel as Willy Banbury in *Fallen Angels*, and Bill Windsor in *Woman in Mind*. Previously, he has appeared around the greater Bay Area. Most recently as MacDuff in *MacBeth* for Capital Stage, Howie in *Rabbit Hole* for Benicia Old Town Theatre Group, Jake in *Evil Dead: The Musical*, and Amos in *Chicago* for the Willows Theatre Company. Shaun is also the prop master for Jewel Theatre.



**Diahanna Davidson** (Kate) is happy to return to Jewel Theatre Company where she last appeared as Susan in *Woman in Mind*. Other Jewel credits include *Blithe Spirit* (Elvira), *Company* (Sarah) and, of course, Kate in Jewel's original production of *Sylvia* in 2009. Diahanna has appeared in commercials for Livermore Ford, Dignity Home Health and Salesforce. As a voice actor, her most recent credits include Audible and Samsung. Diahanna is also a rock singer and drummer and loves rocking out alongside her guitarist husband in their rock band, Bad with People. Diahanna currently resides in Manhattan with her amazing husband, Tom, and their adorable dog, Raiko. This performance is dedicated to them, as well as the parents of Gus and Birdie.



**J.T. Holstrom** (Tom/Phyllis/Leslie) J.T. is very happy to be reunited with JTC and his fellow cast members. Since J.T. was last seen on the JTC stage he has been travelling extensively throughout the U.S. and Europe directing and appearing in *Cabaret*. He was last seen on the Peninsula in Pacific Rep's *Spamalot* and *Beauty and the Beast*. This summer he will be reprising yet another role – Captain Hook in PRT's production of *Peter Pan*. J.T. has received his theatre training from the University of Utah, Boston Conservatory, American Academy of Dramatic Arts (NYC) and the Yale School of Drama. He would also like to thank Julie James for tracking him down and making it possible to recreate some of his favorite characters. His performance is dedicated to the memory of Dianne Young...."Rien de rien....Je ne regrette rien..."



**Julie James** (Sylvia) is the founder and Artistic Director of Jewel Theatre Company where she has acted and directed in several shows including *The Dance of Death*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Complications from a Fall*, *Harper Regan*, *What the Butler Saw*, *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, *Arcadia*, *One for the Road*, *Mary Stuart*, *Hello and Goodbye*, *The House of Blue Leaves*, *Sylvia*, *Women on Fire*, and *Raised in Captivity*. She has also performed with several other theatres, including Marin Theatre Company, Sierra Repertory Theatre, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, American Musical Theatre of San Jose, California Conservatory Theatre, Center Repertory Theatre, The Willows Theatre, and VITA Shakespeare Festival. Julie holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Santa Clara University.



## PRODUCTION



**Diana Torres Koss** (Director/Sound Designer) was most recently seen on the Jewel stage as Eunice Hubbell in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, the Accompanist in *Master Class*, Saunders the maid in *Fallen Angels*, and Nicely-Nicely Johnson in *Guys and Dolls* which was Jewel's first show in the brand new Colligan Theater. Previous roles for Jewel include Muriel (*Woman in Mind*), The Dresser (*Enter the Guardsman*), Rhett Cupp (*Pump Boys and Dinettes*), Queen Elizabeth (*Mary Stuart*), Madame Arcati (*Blithe Spirit*), Bunny (*House of Blues Leaves*), Joanne (*Company*), Woman 2 (*Starting Here, Starting Now*), and Peggy's Mother (*Peggy, The Musical* - staged reading). She composed original music and designed sound with her husband, John Koss, for Jewel's *Arcadia* and *Saint Joan*, co-directed *Blithe Spirit* with Julie James, directed the huge comedy hit *Sylvia* (to be remounted this Spring!), accompanied the duet musical *I Do! I Do!*, and was music director for *Gunmetal Blues*. Other regional roles: Theatreworks - Prism (*Being Earnest*, Mrs. Lovett (*Sweeney Todd*), Mary Todd Lincoln (*A Civil War Christmas*); Palo Alto Players - Margaret (*Light in the Piazza*); San Jose Stage Company - Pennywise (*Urinetown*), Betty (*Great American Trailer Park Musical*). A teaching artist for the non-profit Starting Arts, Diana is also a director, music director, piano teacher, and vocal and acting coach. Proud member of Actors Equity since 1992.



**Skip Epperson** (Set Designer) This is the first production for which Skip has had the opportunity to work with Jewel Theatre and it has been a lot of fun! He has worked with a variety of theaters in a variety of capacities, and serves as co-chair of the Theatre Arts Department at Cabrillo College. During the past 25 years he has designed scenery for most of the productions for Cabrillo Stage and continues to serve as resident designer. During his tenure, he was awarded the Gail Rich award for local artists and the prestigious Rydell Fellowship. He has designed for Cabrillo Theatre Arts, Cabrillo Stage, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Twin Lakes and Santa Cruz Bible churches, CYT (Christian Youth Theater Santa Cruz) as well as film, commercial work and installations. Some of his favorite designs include: *Anything Goes*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Inherit the Wind* and whatever he's working on right now. While he loves to design, Skip enjoys bringing others along on the creative journey; he is a teacher and coach. He is also passionate about spending time with his loving wife, Mary Jo, and his four children.



**B. Modern** (Costume Designer) is delighted to return to the Jewel Theatre Company for *Sylvia*. She has designed costumes for numerous productions at the Jewel including *The Dance of Death*, *The Book Club Play*, *Next to Normal*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Talley's Folly*, *Master Class*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Woman In Mind*, *Complications from a Fall*, *Harper Regan*, *The Lover*, *One for the Road*, *What the Butler Saw* and *Enter the Guardsman*. She is an Associate Artist at Santa Cruz Shakespeare, where she has designed over 48 productions; and Geva Theatre Center in Rochester, New York. Regional theater credits include productions for Denver Center Theatre Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Globe Theatres (San Diego), American Players Theatre (Wisconsin); Asolo Theatre Company (Florida), TheatreWorks, San Jose Rep, Indiana Rep, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, and Georgia Shakespeare Festival. Opera credits include productions at Opera Theatre of St. Louis and Opera San Jose. B. has served as a guest lecturer at UCSC and San Francisco State University, and guest designer at UC Berkeley and Foothill College. She has received numerous awards for her costume designs. B. shares a home and studio in Santa Cruz with three cantankerous cats.

## Biographies



**Kurt Landisman** (Lighting Designer) Kurt is pleased to make his debut with Jewel Theatre Co. His work in the Santa Cruz Area has been seen in the past with Cabrillo Stage, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and Pickle Family Circus. His designs in the Bay Area have been seen at San Francisco Opera, ACT, Berkeley Rep, San Jose Rep, Marin Theatre Co., Theatreworks, Center REP, Magic Theatre, Aurora Theatre, and many other theaters. Nationally he has designed in NYC, Los Angeles, Minneapolis and numerous other cities across the nation, and internationally in Tokyo, Shanghai, and Singapore. His Designs have been recognized with 20 Bay Area Critics Circle Awards. [kurtlandisman.com](http://kurtlandisman.com)



**Steve Gerlach** (Media Designer/Technical Director) was born and raised in Illinois, but has worked in theatres along the East coast and California including New York Theatre Workshop, The Roundabout Theatre Company and La Jolla Playhouse. He recently received his MFA in Digital Arts and New Media from UC Santa Cruz. With a lifelong enjoyment of

building and creating, his main focus currently resides in how to integrate new and emerging audio/video technology into the performing arts.



**Shaun Carroll** (Props Master) has done props for many Jewel productions before becoming the resident props artisan. He has been doing props for various theatre companies around the Bay Area for 10 years, including 7 years as the resident Props Designer for the Willows Theatre Company in Concord. Other theatres include Lake Tahoe, California, San Francisco,

and Santa Cruz Shakespeare Festivals, Capital Stage Theatre, Shotgun Players, Foothill Theatre Company, Opera Santa Barbara, and Ensemble Parallele. He also ran props for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, the European tour of Walt Disney's World on Ice, and the 6 month National Tour of Nunset Boulevard, starring Cindy Williams of "Laverne & Shirley".



**Emerson Sanderson** (Stage Manager) is excited to be working on his sixth season with Jewel. He is a Santa Cruz native, and has been involved in the local performing arts scene since childhood. He is most passionate about the technical aspects of show production, but occasionally enjoys being in the spotlight. He is a resident at the Tannery Arts Center, and is

thrilled to have the opportunity to live in such a vital community of artists. He is exceedingly grateful for the support Santa Cruz has given them and he hopes to continue sharing the performing arts with the town he loves.



## Biographies



**Mark Hoagland** (Master Carpenter) graduated from College of the Sequoias with an AA in Theater Arts, with honors, and from UC Santa Cruz with a BA in Theater Arts with an emphasis in design and technology. Mark has worked for Shakespeare Santa Cruz, San Jose Repertory, Jewel Theatre, Cabrillo College, Mountain Community Theater and other

assorted organizations as a freelance set designer, technical director, master carpenter, lighting designer, master electrician and just about everything else because of a genetic failing that makes it impossible for him to say 'no' to a pretty face.



**Susan Myer Siltan** (Dramaturge) was Jewel's dramaturge for *The Dance of Death*, *The Book Club Play*, *Next to Normal*, *Talley's Folly*, *The Price*, *Woman in Mind*, *Three Days of Rain*, *What the Butler Saw*, and *Arcadia*, as well as the dramaturgy associate for *Fallen Angels*. She recently directed *A Streetcar Named Desire*, her sixth season

opener for Jewel. Other plays that Susan directed for Jewel are *Master Class* (2016) *Saint Joan* (2014), *Arcadia* (2013), *Mary Stuart* (2012), *House of Blue Leaves* (2011) and *Clouds* (2010). A visual artist her entire life, Susan took her first theatre class in 1990 and hasn't looked back. She trained with the National Shakespeare Conservatory under a Merit Scholarship and acted with, among others, Pacific Repertory, Central Coast Theatre Works and Actors Theatre. She co-founded Pisces Moon Productions, Inc., where she was Artistic Director for 12 years. A producer and director with more than 40 plays to her credit, Susan has served on the advisory committee for the Arts Council's Arts in Education program, is a Rydell Visual Arts Awardee, received the Gail Rich Award and is a proud member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

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Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 48,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. AEA seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. AEA negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org)