Welcome to this evening’s performance of Sylvester, based on the novel by Georgette Hayer. We hope to see you for our next production, Anna Karenina. Enjoy the show!

—Lifeline Ensemble
proudly presents

Sylvester
A world premiere based on the novel by Georgette Hayer

Adapted by Christina Calvit*
Directed by Dorothy Milne*

Scenic & Properties Designer
Alan Donahue*

Lighting Designer
Eric Watkins

Costume Designer
Rachel Sypniewski

Original Music & Sound Designer
Curtis Edwin Powell

Dialect Coach
Carrie Hardin

Choreographer
Ligia Sandoval

Stage Manager
Kyle Bricker

Assistant Stage Manager
Kyle Mundil-Dye

Production Manager ................................................................. Jennifer McClendon
Technical Director ................................................................. Joe Schermoly
Master Electrician ..................................................................... Collin Helou
Carpenters .................................................................................. Matt Super
Electricians ................................................................. B. Emil Boulos, Cory Drewry, Bucky Emmerling, Jason Shivers
Photography ................................................................................ Suzanne Plunkett*

*Denotes member of Lifeline Artistic Ensemble

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THE CAST (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Thomas Orde & Ensemble ................................................................. Terry Bell
Sylvester Rayne, Duke of Salford ..................................................... Andrés Enriquez
Lady Ingham, Mrs. Orde & Ensemble ................................................ Kate Hildreth
Lady Ianthe Rayne, Alice & Ensemble .............................................. Kristina Loy
Lady Marlow, Georgiana Newbury, The Dowager Duchess of Salford & Ensemble .................. Katie McLean Hainsworth*
Phoebe Marlow ................................................................................ Samantha Newcomb
Mr. Otley, Keighley, Sir Nugent Fotherby & Ensemble ...................... Wesley Scott
Mr. Newsome, Lord Marlow, Mr. Shap, Pett & Ensemble ...................... Sean Sinitski
Understudies................................................................. Paul Chakrin, Kristi Forsch, Rebecca Keeshin,
Priya Mohanty, Benjamin Ponce, Akua Sarhene,
Max Stewart, and David Stobbe

DIRECTOR’S NOTE

Georgette Heyer was one of my grandmother’s favorite authors and I still have Gram’s dog-eared paperback collection. Heyer is the master of putting believable characters in ridiculous situations, combining sparkling dialogue with great insight into the human heart.

Sylvester marks the fourth Heyer project that Christina Calvit and I have brought to Lifeline’s stage. Early on, Christina made it clear that she was looking for an unconventional approach for this one: a circus setting? a playground? Sitting on Christina’s porch drinking mimosas with scenic designer (and frequent collaborator) Alan Donahue, we bandied ideas about. Could we find a construct that added meaning as well as whimsy? The idea of a board game emerged: Chutes and Ladders? This felt more interesting. It offered one more layer of abstraction, while still representing the giddy heights and shattering pratfalls of life and love.

Alan found that the original version is Snakes and Ladders, an ancient Indian game that became popular all over the world. As our hero and heroine engage in the game of life and love, they make both careful and impulsive choices -- and are frequently knocked about by the luck of the draw as well. We hope you enjoy the game -- and Georgette Heyer’s Sylvester. – Dorothy Milne
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Georgette Heyer (August 16, 1902 – July 4, 1974) was an English historical romance and detective fiction novelist. Her writing career began at 17 when she created a serial story to entertain her ailing younger brother, which was later published as her first novel, The Black Moth.

Heyer essentially invented the historical romance genre and its subgenre Regency romance. She is known for her meticulous research and accuracy in all aspects of her historical novels. (We don’t know if she would approve of our mash-up of periods and putting her story on a game board. But we hope she would find it fun.) Heyer enjoyed extreme popularity in England during her lifetime and published more than 50 books, most of which are still in print.

PROFILES

Terry Bell (Thomas Orde & Ensemble)
Terry is thrilled to be in his first show at Lifeline! Other theatre credits include: Arviragus in Cymbeline (Strawdog Theatre), Peter in Snowy Day and Other Stories (Emerald City Theatre), and Byron in My Way Residential (Irish Theatre of Chicago). He is represented by Gray Talent Group.

Andrés Enriquez (Sylvester Rayne, Duke of Salford)
Andrés is honored to be returning to Lifeline’s MainStage! Previously, he has been in Northanger Abbey (John Thorpe) and Soon I Will Be Invincible (CoreFire understudy). He’s also been lucky enough to be in Lifeline’s KidSeries production of Sparky! (Sparky). Other Chicago credits include Into The Beautiful North (16th Street Theater), My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra (Theater at the Center), Cymbeline (Strawdog Theater), and In The Heights (Porchlight Music Theater). Regional credits include The 39 Steps, The Fantasticks (Shawnee Theatre, IN); and Scapin (Colonial Williamsburg). He is represented by Gray Talent Group.

Kate Hildreth (Lady Ingham, Mrs. Orde & Ensemble)
Kate was last seen as Mrs. Carter in Lifeline’s production of Miss Buncle’s Book. Other Lifeline credits include Gaudy Night, Cat’s Cradle, and Cotillion. She has worked for many Chicago theaters and is thrilled to be back working with Lifeline once again.

Kristina Loy (Lady Ianthe Rayne, Alice & Ensemble)
Kristina is so grateful to be back at Lifeline Theatre, where she was last seen in Miss Buncle’s Book. Chicago credits include The Hard Problem (Court Theatre); Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley (Northlight Theatre); The Van Gogh Café, Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Portage Park (Filament Theatre). She was an Emerging Professional Resident at the Milwaukee Rep for their 2014-2015 Season. Her credits there include after all the terrible things I do, Harvey, and Peter and the Starcatcher. Kristina proudly holds her BFA in Acting from the University of Illinois. For Skyler.
Katie McLean Hainsworth* (Lady Marlow, Georgiana Newbury, The Dowager Duchess of Salford & Ensemble)
Katie has been a Lifeline ensemble member since 2006. Her adaptation of The Mark of Zorro won the 2009 New Adaptation Non-Equity Jeff Award, and she directed Watership Down (2011) and Johnny Tremain (2006) for the MainStage. As an actor, her favorite Lifeline productions include Miss Holmes, Monstrous Regiment, A Tale of Two Cities, The Three Musketeers, Hunger, Neverwhere, Mariette in Ecstasy, Gaudy Night, Whose Body?, and Cooking With Lard. A native of Central New York, Katie has made Chicago her home, and also appeared onstage with WildClaw, the Hypocrites, Bailiwick, and Greasy Joan.

Samantha Newcomb (Phoebe Marlow)
Samantha is thrilled to be making her Lifeline Theatre debut. Fresh on the scene, the Portland, Oregon native just received her BFA in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University this June. Chicago credits include Tessa in In The Wake (The Comrades). Notable Theatre School credits include Zonia Loomis in Joe Turner’s Come and Gone; Hester, La Negrita in In The Blood; and Queen Margaret in Richard III; as well as the TYA production of Cinderella: The Remix. Other credits include Bite, which she performed as a member of the Williamstown Theatre Festival Apprentice Company. Samantha is represented by Actor’s Talent Group.

Wesley Scott (Mr. Otley, Keighley, Sir Nugent Fotherby & Ensemble)
Wesley is happy to be making his first appearance at Lifeline Theatre. His previous Chicago credits include The Hammer Trinity (The House); King Lear and Timon of Athens (CST); Jeeves Intervenes (First Folio); Bloody Bess and Waiting for Lefty (Backstage); and Cyrano De Bergerac (Oak Park Festival Theatre). His regional credits include Pericles and Fair Maid of the West (Riverside Theatre); Twelfth Night, Love’s Labors Lost, Comedy of Errors, Tartuffe, Richard III, The Winter’s Tale, She Stoops to Conquer, and Romeo and Juliet (Michigan Shakespeare Festival); See Rock City (Orlando Repertory Theatre); Rumpelstiltskin and Goodbye Mr. Henshaw (California Theatre Center). Wesley was educated at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Hollywood, CA.

Sean Sinitski (Mr. Newsome, Lord Marlow, Mr. Shap, Pett & Ensemble)
Sean was member of the late Defiant Theatre, where he performed such roles as Hamlet, Macduff, and a guy that got his thumb stolen in Action Movie: the Play! Other Chicago credits: Miss Buncle’s Book, A Tale of Two Cities, The Killer Angels, The Three Musketeers, The Moonstone, Neverwhere, Treasure Island, The Picture of Dorian Gray (Lifeline); All’s Well that Ends Well, Rabbit, Fellow Travelers (Stage Left); Season on the Line (House Theatre of Chicago); Timon of Athens, The Madness of King George (Chicago Shakespeare); The Merchant of Venice, Detective Story, The V, Balm in Gilead (Hypocrites); Back of the Throat, Caravaggio (Silk Road).
Paul Chakrin (Understudy)
Paul is happy to be making his debut with Lifeline Theatre. Previously, he has worked with City Lit Theatre (Forty-Two Stories; The Bloodhound Law), Muse of Fire (Hamlet), and Northlight (Sen Mallonee u/s).

Kristi Forsch (Understudy)
Kristi is happy to be working with Lifeline Theatre for the first time. Other Chicago companies she has worked with include Akvavit Theatre, Adapt Theatre (Company Member), 20% Theatre (Artistic Associate), Victory Gardens, (re)discover, and Waltzing Mechanics. Regional credits: Lyric Theatre, Oklahoma City Rep, Oklahoma Children’s Theatre, and Texas Shakespeare. She received her BFA in Acting from Oklahoma City University. She is represented by NV Talent.

Rebecca Keeshin (Understudy)
Becky is thrilled to be joining Lifeline for the first time! As a recent graduate from The Theatre School at DePaul, school credits include Peter Pan and Wendy, The Lady from the Sea, Prospero’s Storm, and Mrs. Phu’s Cleansing Juices (And Also Salads)!
Professional credits include work with First Folio Theatre, Writers Theatre, The Music Theatre Company, and Canterbury Summer Theatre. She is currently performing in Mother Goose's Garden at Emerald City Theatre. She is represented by Grossman and Jack.

Priya Mohanty (Understudy)
Priya is very pleased to be making her Lifeline Theatre debut. Other Chicago credits include Sanam Shah in Queen (Victory Gardens Theatre); Gender Breakdown (Collaboration); Lalitha in Widow of No Importance (Rasaka Theatre); Rukhsana in Multitudes (Rasaka Theatre & Vitalist Theatre); Nemasani in Anonymous (Cuckoo’s Theatre Project). Priya just completed the School at Steppenwolf this summer and is also a proud alumnus of the ACADEMY at Black Box Acting. She is represented by Lily’s Talent Agency.

Benjamin Ponce (Understudy)
Benjamin is excited to join this cast and crew for his first time at Lifeline. Other Chicago credits include How to Explain the History of Communism to Mental Patients (Trap Door); The Night Season (Strawdog); A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet (Muse of Fire); A Puppet Playdate with Grandma D (Pride Films and Plays); A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Romeo and Juliet (Stone Soup Shakespeare); and he can be seen in Red Theater Chicago’s upcoming adaptation of Cyrano de Bergerac. He holds a BFA from the School of Theatre and Music at UIC.

Akua Sarhene (Understudy)
Akua is excited to be returning to Lifeline after understudying the roles of Red Eyes/Happy Medium in A Wrinkle in Time. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-
Champaign. Other credits include: 
*Cl*byorne Park* as Lena/ Francine, Hellcab* as Pregnant Woman, *A Midsummer Nights Dream* as Puck u/s, and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* as Saint Matthew.

Max Stewart
(Understudy)
Max is thrilled to be working in his first show at Lifeline. Previous Chicago credits include *The Missing* at Chicago Fringe Festival, *Jettison* at Gorilla Tango, and *The Time of Your Life* at Artistic Home (U/S). Film and TV credits include *They Wake Up* and *Tasmanian Tiger*. Instagram: @maxflash4.

David Stobbe
(Understudy)
David is thrilled to be working with Lifeline! Recently David has been seen as Rosencrantz in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Metropolis Theater) and in *Bad Date* (Stage Left’s Leap-fest) and *New Faces Sing Broadway 1969* (Porchlight). David is a member of the Bittersweet Arts Co. and received a B.A. in Musical Theater from Columbia College Chicago.

Christina Calvit*
(Adaptor)
Christina is a Lifeline Theatre ensemble member. She has written over twenty theatrical adaptations which have been performed throughout the United States and internationally. Her work has won five Non-Equity Jeff Awards (most recently in 2016 for *Miss Buncle’s Book*), one Equity Jeff Award and one After Dark Award. Recent productions include *Pride and Prejudice, Wuthering Heights, Queen Lucia: A Musical Romp* (with composer/lyricist George Howe), *Mariette in Ecstasy*, and *A Room with a View*. Her original plays include *Snowflake Tim’s Big Holiday Adventure, Chaos* (co-writer), and *Several Voices from the Cloud* (Agnes Nixon Award, 1981).

Dorothy Milne*
(Director)
Dorothy has directed over twenty productions at Lifeline, where she is an ensemble member and the Artistic Director. She received a Non-Equity Jeff Award (Direction) for *Around the World in 80 Days*; and Non-Equity Jeff Nominations (Direction) for *Pistols for Two, Jane Eyre* (for which she also received an After Dark Award), *Strong Poison*, and *Gaudy Night*. Outside of Lifeline, she most recently directed *In To America* for Griffin Theatre. Dorothy has also been writing and performing with the storytelling collective Sweat Girls for over 20 years, directs occasionally for 2nd Story and at Lifeline leads The Lifeline Storytelling Project and co-curates The Fillet of Solo Festival.

Kyle Bricker
(Stage Manager)
Kyle is excited to be making his Lifeline Theatre debut. He is a recent graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he earned his BFA in Stage Management. While at UIUC, Kyle worked in both Illinois Theatre and Dance. Illinois Theatre credits include *Kingdom City, Polaroid Stories, 1984*, and *The Light in the Piazza*. In dance, Kyle has worked on original pieces with choreographers such as Renée Wadleigh (*The Quench*), Abby Zbikowski (*heavy planet*), and Chad Michael Hall (*Critical Mass*). In Chicago Kyle, was the ASM for *Dating and Dragons* (The Factory Theater).

Alan Donahue*
(Scenic & Properties Designer)
Alan is pleased for the 50th+ time be providing the scenic design for a Lifeline production. No wonder his back hurts. He counts *Treasure Island, Mariette in Ecstasy, Pistols for Two, and Johnny Tremain* among his favorites. Alan has also adapted *Trust Me on This* and *Crossing California* for the
Lifeline MainStage and Bongo Larry & Two Bad Bears and Sophie's Masterpiece for the Kidseries. He will return this coming summer with designs for his second Neverwhere.

Carrie Hardin (Dialect Coach)
Carrie is pleased to be making her Lifeline debut with Sylvester. Some past credits include dialect work for London Assurance (City Lit), Henry V (Babes With Blades), Getting Out (Loyola University Chicago), A View from the Bridge (Redtwist Theatre), and Saturday Night/Sunday Morning (Prologue Theatre at the Steppenwolf Garage), among others. Carrie was a founding member of Prologue Theatre Company.

Collin Helou (Master Electrician) Collin is excited to join the Lifeline family! Collin has previously worked with The Hypocrites, The House Theatre, Eclipse Theatre Company, Chicago Theatre Workshop, Li’l Buds Theatre, Aleatoric Theatre Company, and The Casting Auction. An Indiana native Collin has worked across the United States and in the United Kingdom, working extensively in rural Appalachia – working with PUSH: Physical Theatre, Liz Callaway, Paul Taylor’s Taylor II, Heritage Theatre Festival, The Barter Players, Barter Theatre, the state theatre of Virginia; and as the Lighting Supervisor for the McGlothlin Center for the Arts, as well as the Resident Lighting Designer for Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre.

Curtis Edwin Powell (Original Music & Sound Designer)
This is Curtis’ debut at Lifeline Theatre. Chicago area productions include: Saturday Night and Sunday Morning (Steppenwolf) and Yellowman (Stage 773), as well as numerous sound designs for theatres across the Midwest, Southwest and both coasts. Four of Curtis’ musicals have been produced in the Chicago area, including Fairways (Steel Beam), Chronic Malcontents (Endpoint), Waking Lazarus and Trafford Tanzi (Prologue Theatre). As an actor, Curtis last appeared as Ace in The Royal Society of Antarctica (Gift Theatre). His MA is from Northwestern University.

Ligia Sandoval (Choreographer)
As a former intern, Ligia is excited to return and make her Lifeline Theatre choreography debut. Recent credits include: Choreographer for Abduction: The Musical (Stage 773), Assistant Director & Choreographer for Teatro Vista's Romeo and Juliet (Apollo Theater Chicago), Production Manager for Hog's Belly (Gorilla Tango Theatre), Production Assistant & “Security Guard” in Learning Curve (Albany Park Theater Project), and “Actor 2” in The 9 Fridas and “Ana María” in Alegrias y lágrimas (Instituto Cervantes).

Kyle Mundil-Dye (Assistant Stage Manager) As one of the Fall 2017 fall interns, Kyle is ecstatic to make his Lifeline debut with Sylvester. Recent credits include: Artistic Director for A Child’s Christmas in Wales, South Pacific, and Annie Get Your Gun (Kearney Community Theatre), Artistic Director for The Creation of the World and Other Business (University of Nebraska at Kearney) and Stage Manager for Vintage (University of Nebraska at Kearney).

Rachel Sypniewski (Costume Designer)
Rachel is thrilled to be returning to Lifeline after previously designing Miss Holmes and Midnight Cowboy. Among her favorite Chicago credits are The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui (Trap Door, Non-Equity Jeff nomination: Costume Design); London Wall (Griffin, Non-Equity Jeff nomination: Costume Design); Titanic: The Musical (Griffin, Non-Equity Jeff nomination: Costume Design); La Bete (Trap Door, Non-Equity Jeff Award: Costume Design); Ragtime (Griffin); Into the Beautiful North and Merchild (16th Street); The Woman in Black (WildClaw); Phadre (Trap Door). Rachel is the resident costume designer for Trap Door, an artistic associate with 16th Street Theater, and a company member with The Factory Theater.
Eric Watkins (Lighting Designer)
Eric is a lighting designer for theatre, opera, and dance, based in Chicago. Recent Chicago designs include 42 Stories and Psmith, Journalist (City Lit); Porcelain and Tea (Prologue Theatre); Deer and the Lovers (First Floor Theater); Fisheyed (Dandelion Theatre); Any Other Name, [title of show], Art, and Gypsy (William Street Rep), Fallen (Mozawa), and The Property (Lyric Unlimited). Recent designs outside of Chicago include: Show Boat (The Dallas Opera), Cenerentola (Merola Opera in San Francisco), Alcina (Boston Conservatory), A Streetcar Named Desire (Opera Santa Barbara and Kentucky Opera), Marriage of Figaro (Merola Opera), and Barber of Seville (Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre). He received his MFA in lighting design from Boston University.

Lavina Jadhwani (Casting Director)
Lavina was recently named Time Out Chicago’s “Best Next Generation Stage Director.” She is an Artistic Associate at Silk Road Rising (Yellow Dress, Ching Chong Chinaman, Gold Boy/Emerald Girl) and Oak Park Festival Theatre (Hamlet, Twelfth Night, The Two Gentlemen of Verona). She also served as the Artistic Director of Rasaka Theatre Company from 2007-2013, where she directed Much Ado About Nothing, the Chicago premiere of Gruesome Playground Injuries, and directed and curated the Chicago premiere of Yoni Ki Baat (2009 & 2010) and culture/clash: the nation’s first fully-produced South Asian short play festival. As a casting director, her work has also been seen with Chicago Children’s Theatre, The Hypocrites, and Mixed Blood Theatre. She is a recipient of Oregon Shakespeare Festival’s Phil Killian Directing Fellowship, the O’Neill/NNPN National Directors Fellowship, the Drama League’s Classical Directing Fellowship, an SDCF Observership, and an LMDA Residency Award. Jadhwani is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University (BFA, Scenic Design; Masters, Arts Management) and The Theatre School at DePaul University (MFA, Directing).

Joe Schermoly (Technical Director)
Joe has been the Technical Director at Lifeline for four seasons, during which time he has designed sets for Midnight Cowboy, The Mystery of the Pirate Ghost, A Tale of Two Cities, The City & The City, and The Count of Monte Cristo. Joe is also an ensemble member with the Griffin Theatre, where he has designed many sets including Pocatello, Titanic, Spelling Bee, Flare Path, Punk Rock, Port, and Constant Wife. His other design work includes productions with Steppenwolf Theatre (Constellations), Theatre Wit (The Watson Intelligence; Mr Burns, a post-electric play; Seven Homeless Mammoths; Completeness), Sideshow (Stupid F***ing Bird, Idomeneus, The Ugly One) and Irish Theatre of Chicago (The Seafarer, Lay Me Down Softly). Joe studied set design at Northwestern University and has received two After Dark Awards and two Jeff Nominations. See more of his work at www.joeschermoly.com.

SHOUT Marketing and Media Relations (Publicists) Jill Evans La Penna and James Juliano formed SHOUT Marketing & Media Relations (SHOUT) in August 2007. SHOUT specializes in entertainment events and leisure organizations. With more than 30 years of collective experience, the partners give a strong voice to individuals, organizations and events of varying sizes, budgets and needs. From hotel/resort destinations to theatrical presentations to restaurants to musicians and film, SHOUT creates an individualized approach to each client and their specific needs and budget. SHOUT strives to utilize the most up-to-date public relations and marketing approaches including online and grassroots campaigns and unique strategic advertising plans.
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Frederick Weller and Catherine Combs in the Young Vic production of A View From the Bridge. Photo by Jan Versweyveld.