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DAC Stage Presents 'Sylvia' — a Romantic Comedy About a Husband, a Wife and a Dog

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Darien Arts Center Stage is proud to announce its production of the comedy, *Sylvia*, a comedy in which a dog becomes a major bone of contention between a husband and wife.

The play by A. R. Gurney will run from Nov. 3 to 11.

The cast includes Jacquie Carlsen, David Jackins, and Giovanna Olcese of Norwalk and Susan Stanton of Westport. Christian Amato is director.

Greg, a middle-aged husband, brings home a dog he found in the park — or that has found him — bearing only the name "Sylvia" on her name tag.

— an announcement from [Darien Arts Center](#)

Sylvia, a street-smart mixture of lab and poodle, offers Greg an escape from the frustrations of his job and the unknowns of middle age. But to his wife, Kate, the dog becomes a rival for affection.

The marriage is put in serious jeopardy until, after a series of hilarious and touching complications, Greg and Kate learn to compromise, and Sylvia becomes a valued part of their lives.

More about the play

Links provided by Darienite.com:

- [Sylvia](#) on Wikipedia
- Vincent Canby's New York Times [review of the play](#)
- [Chicago Tribune review](#)
- Sylvia [video excerpts on YouTube](#)

David Jackins, who plays Greg, has previously been seen on the DAC stage as Charlie in *On Golden Pond*. He has also performed in *Spring Awakening*, *The Farnsworth Invention*, *Our Town*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone* with other Fairfield County companies. Dave is a founding member of Crystal Theatre in Norwalk, and is the founder/director of Creative Summer at The Mead School, which celebrated its 28th anniversary this summer.

Jacque Carlsen, who plays Tom, Phyllis, and Leslie, has acted in *Watch on The Rhine* and *Prisoner of Second Avenue* at the Westport Community Theater, and in *The Wizard of Oz*, *I Remember Mama*, and *Guys and Dolls* at Curtain Call in Stamford. Jacque works by day as a copywriter at Conair Corporation in Stamford.

Giovanna Olcese, Sylvia in the production, studied with Playhouse West Brooklyn Lab and is a member of the Theater Artist Workshop of Connecticut. Her most recent projects include *The Incident* and *The 39 Steps* with The Westport Community Theatre, *Time Stands Still* with Town Players of New Canaan, and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* with the Vagabond Theatre Company.

Susan Stanton plays the role of Kate. She has been seen in *Doubt* and *Rabbit Hole* with Westport

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Community Theatre, on ABC television's *All My Children* and in several Play with Your Food performances. Theatre Artists Workshop projects include her original performance pieces *Forever & Always* and *Weightless. Letting Go*, a film for which she choreographed and performed, premiered at Lincoln Center's Dance on Camera Festival.

Christian Amato is a director, producer and theatrical strategist who has produced over 45 off-Broadway productions. He has served as a producer for *Rocky* and *The Color Purple* and has developed successful campaigns on Broadway for productions such as *Kinky Boots*, *Matilda*, *Mothers and Sons* and *It's Only A Play*. He served as founder and producing artistic director of The Theatre Project and Shakespeare Off-Broadway, which TheaterMania has hailed as "exciting and innovative."

Sylvia is sponsored by A Total Look Mobile Dog Grooming in Darien and presented through special arrangement with Dramatist Play Service.

If You're Going ...

- The play has 8 p.m. performances on Nov. 3, 4, 10 and 11 at 8 p.m. and at 2 p.m. on Nov. 5 and 11.
- Performances take place in the DAC Weatherstone Studio at 2 Renshaw Road, behind the Darien Town Hall.
- Tickets are \$25 at darienarts.org.
- For more information, call the DAC at (203) 655-8683.