



present

Prelude To A Kiss

By Craig Lucas

Directed by Derek Bertelsen

Stage Manager

Melanie Kulas

Hair/Make-Up Designer

Asha McAllister

Assistant Director

David Lew Cooper

Sound Designer

Becca Venable

Set Designer

Michael Lewis

Lighting Designer

Nicholas Coso

Costume Designer

Uriel Gomez

Technical Director

Michael J. Sanow

The Comrades:

Derek Bertelsen, *Artistic Director*

Angela Horn, *Director of Audience Engagement*

Mike Newquist, *Director of Communications*

Alison Plott, *Casting Director*

Cydney Moody, *Company Member*

David Coupe, *Company Member*

PRELUDE TO A KISS is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Christopher Gould, Suzanne Golden and Dodger Productions presented The Circle Repertory Company Production of PRELUDE TO A KISS on Broadway.

Original New York City production by Circle Repertory Company. Commissioned and originally produced by South Coast Repertory with support from The National Endowment for the Arts.

Prelude To A Kiss

CAST

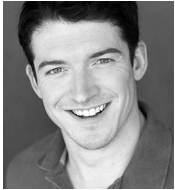
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|---------------------|-----------------|
| Peter | David Coupe* |
| Rita | Bethany Hart |
| Old Man | Ed McGuire |
| Mrs. Boyle | Carol Ludwick |
| Dr. Boyle | James Spangler |
| Taylor | Mike Newquist* |
| Uncle Fred | Tom Lally |
| Aunt Dorothy | Anne Wrider |
| Ensemble | Alex Nolan |
| Ensemble | Jazzma Pryor |
| Leah/Ensemble | Cydney Moody* |
| Tom/Ensemble | Raymond Jacquet |

*denotes member of *The Comrades*

Please note:

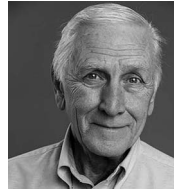
PRELUDE TO A KISS is 1 hour, 25 minutes and performed without an intermission.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



DAVID COUPE (Peter) is an actor, writer, director, and company member of The Comrades. His recent theater credits are as Tyler in *Mary-Kate Olsen Is in Love* for The Comrades and Doolan in *Cannibals Gone*

Bad for the Paragon Theatre Festival. You can currently see him in the independent horror film '2 Jennifer' for LA Horror Productions available on numerous streaming services. David is also the writer/director of the forthcoming web-series, POST.



ED MCGUIRE (Old Man) has performed for over 35 years in Chicago and Florida. Most recent performances have been with St Sebastian Players as Dr. Einstein in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Zackery

Smithfield in *Lotto Fever in the Sucker State*, and Percy Kilbride in a one act show written and performed by Ed in *An Evening With Percy*. He thanks his wife Mary Kay and family and friends for being there, and hopes you enjoy the show.



BETHANY HART (Rita) is absolutely thrilled to make her Chicago debut with The Comrades! A Washington state native, Bethany recently obtained her MFA in classical acting and civic engagement at

Illinois State University. Regional work includes two seasons with the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, three years with the ISF Touring Company, and five seasons as a resident artist at Interplayers in Spokane, Washington. She would like to thank YOU for supporting this vibrant company tonight.



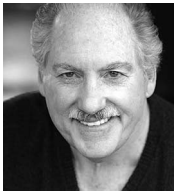
JAMES SPANGLER (Dr. Boyle) is excited to be working with The Comrades on this production! He was most recently seen in *Those The River Keeps* at JPAC. James' favorite role is as a spouse

and father. James would like to thank his wife Kate, and his children for supporting him in this crazy theater life!



CAROL LUDWICK (Mrs. Boyle) is delighted to be making her debut with The Comrades. Past favorite roles include Mrs. Phillips/Sue in *D.O.A.* at Strawdog, understudying Becca and Ali in *The Commons of*

Pensacola at Northlight; in addition to Beth in *Dinner with Friends* and Beverly in *The Shadow Box* with the Rebekah Theatre Project, where she is a founding member. Special thanks to David, Merlin and Arthur for being my home.



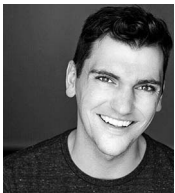
TOM LALLY (Uncle Fred) is pleased to be working with The Comrades. Tom's recent work includes working with the Goodman Theatre, (*Carlyle*); American Theatre Company, (*The Original Grease*); The Artistic Home,

(*Trouble in Mind*); Oak Park Theatre Festival, (*To Kill a Mockingbird*); Gift Theatre, (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*); and Redtwist, (*Incident at Vichy*). He is represented by Big Mouth Talent, Inc.



ANNE WRIDER (Aunt Dorothy) is new to Chicago and delighted to be appearing with the Comrades. Favorite roles include Betty Meeks in *The Foreigner*, Kate Keller in *All My Sons*, and Dorothea

Wesbrook in *Eleemosynary*. Thanks to Derek and the cast and crew for such a good experience!



MIKE NEWQUIST (Taylor) is a Chicago-based actor and improviser as well as a company member of The Comrades. Some credits include: *Mary-Kate Olsen Is In Love* (The Comrades), *Design for Living* (Pride Films

& Plays), *The Brig* (Mary-Arrchie). He has also worked with Polarity, Prop Theatre, Commedia Beauregard, Theatre-Hikes, Robot vs Dinosaur, Strawdog, and Jackalope Theatre. New Media credits: *Dudes*, *Coffee Talk*, *Girl in Yellow*, *The Dreamers*, *Ashtray*, *Pilgrim*. Mike is a freelance cartoonist, follow him on Instagram @newqcartoons.



RAYMOND JACQUET (Tom/Ensemble) is honored to be a part of the wonderful cast of *Prelude To A Kiss*. Raymond is graduate of University of Maryland-College Park and the Act One

Conservatory. Recent Acting credits include *Butcher Boggle* (Dozu) and *The Subject* (Garth). Each performance is dedicated to the loving memory of his mother, Jacqueline.



CYDNEY MOODY (Leah/ Ensemble) has been a company member of The Comrades since May 2016 and is thrilled to be a part of this family! Most recently, you may have seen her in the first

production by The Little Things Theatre playing Silvia in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and *Mary-Kate Olsen Is In Love*, playing Ashley, with The Comrades. She is also proud to be represented by Stewart Talent.



JAZZMA PRYOR (Ensemble) graduated with a B.A. in Production Studies from Clemson University in South Carolina. She has worked with several companies during her 7+ years in

Chicago: Stage Left Theatre, Wishbone Theatre Collective, Strawdog Theater, Wayward Productions, Tympanic Theatre, Indie Boots, Hobo Junction, Arrow and Key Productions, and Soft Cage Films. She is a current Protégé with Shattered Globe Theatre. Jazzma is extremely excited for her first production with The Comrades. Live. Laugh. Love.



ALEX NOLEN (Ensemble) is thrilled to be part of this Comrades production! She has recently graduated from Loyola Chicago and was last seen as Giant Human Female Fetus Baby in Elizabeth Archer's *Troll*.

Much love to the cast, her family, and friends.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

DEREK BERTELSEN (Director) Select Chicago directing credits include *The Lieutenant of Inshmore*, *Wit*, *Doubt*, *Next Fall*, *The Lyons* (AstonRep), *The Children's Hour*, *Design For Living* (Pride Films & Plays), *Mary-Kate Olsen Is In Love* (The Comrades), *Number The Stars* (GreatWorks), *God of Carnage* (BrightSide Theatre). Regional: *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Festival 56), *The Wizard of Oz* (Shawnee Playhouse) and five seasons at Timber Lake Playhouse. Assistant Directing credits include Steppenwolf Garage and Goodman. Love to Nelson. Enjoy the show!

MELANIE KULAS (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working with The Comrades on this production! In Chicago, Melanie has worked as a stage manager with AstonRep, Dead Writers, Pride Films & Plays, and Strawdog, to name a few. She also works each spring on the UW Varsity Band Spring Concert in Madison, WI. Melanie would like to thank her friends and family, especially her partner, Joe, for all of their support in her jam-packed schedule and many late nights.

DAVID LEW COOPER (Assistant Director) is a graduate of Western Michigan University with a BFA in theatre performance. David has recently worked with the Director's Lab of Chicago and is excited to have this production be his first directorial gig since moving to the city last year. David is also an actor, rapper, writer, and house manager (Greenhouse Theater Center/Court Theatre). David sends love to his partner Leah and dedicates his efforts on this production to his beloved mother who will remain in his heart forever.

MICHAEL J. SANOW (Technical Director) has built many sets for countless theater companies throughout the past three decades. This is the latest set he has built. He hopes you like it. Enjoy the show.

ASHA MCALLISTER (Hair/Make-Up Designer) is a playwright, costume designer, and a Box Office Associate at TimeLine Theatre. She graduated from Kenyon College in 2015 with a BA in Drama. Asha is honored to be working with The Comrades again.

NICHOLAS COSO (Lighting Designer) is excited to be doing his first light design with The Comrades. After graduating from Florida Southern College with a B.A. in Light Design, he got to teach at Riverwood International Charter School in Atlanta, GA where he worked on multiple productions including *Rumors*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Almost Maine*. Having recently moved to Chicago, Nicholas would like to express gratitude to The Comrades as well as thank his family and friends for their continued support.

MICHAEL LEWIS (Set Designer) is a native of Highland Park, Illinois. He attended Emory University, and has worked for the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, and PCPA-Pacific Conservatory Theatre. In Chicago, he has designed scenery for Rasaka Theatre Company, Tympanic Theatre Company, BoHo Theatre, Black Button Eyes Productions, Festival 56, and ChiArts High School. Michaelbennettlewis.com

BECCA VENABLE (Sound Designer) is a Texas native now living in Chicago working as a technical director, lighting designer, sound designer, and stage manager with various theatre companies including Oil Lamp Theater, The Jades, Collaboration, and The Comrades. During her career Becca has worked on *The Nutcracker*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Weekend Comedy*, *Oklahoma*, *Flatlands: Encore!*, *Dying City*, *The Boys Next Door*, *Reckless*, *Fuddy Meers*, *The Country Wife*, and *Rent* to name just a few.

URIEL GOMEZ (Costume Designer) is ecstatic to be working on his second production with The Comrades. Recent design credits include the Chicago premieres of *Parachute Men*, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, *My Mañana Comes* (Teatro Vista); *The Women of Lockerbie*, *The Lyons* (Aston Rep); *Mary Kate Olsen is in Love* (The Comrades); and *Men on the Verge of a Hispanic Breakdown* (Pride Films & Plays). He would like to thank Matt; as well as his friends, and family for all their support. For more information and designs please visit ugomez.com