



presents

DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE

By Sarah Ruhl

Directed by Arianna Soloway

**Production Stage
Manager**

Melanie Kulas

**Fight/Intimacy
Choreographer**

Claire Yearman

Scenic Designer
Sydney Achler

Lighting Designer
Mike McShane

Costume Designer
Kelsey O. Cox

**Composer/Sound
Designer**
Eric Backus

Artistic Director
Derek Bertelsen

Dialect Coach
Susan Gosdick

Casting Director
Alison Plott

Technical Director
Becca Venable

THE COMRADES

Sydney Achler, Derek Bertelsen, Nicholas Coso, David Coupe, Angela Horn, Raymond Jacquet, Melanie Kulas, Cydney Moody, Mike Newquist, Alex Nolen, Alison Plott, Kamren Smith, Carol Ann Tan, Becca Venable, Taylor Wisham

Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the New York Premiere of DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE Off-Broadway in 2008. Originally produced June 2006 by Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Washington, DC Howard Shalwitz, Artistic Director; Kevin Moore, Managing Director. DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE was commissioned by Playwrights Horizons with funds provided by the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Commissioning Program.

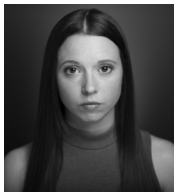
DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE is presented by special arrangement with
SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

CAST

Jean	Cydney Moody
Gordon	Bryan Breau
Mrs. Gottlieb.....	Caroline Dodge Latta
Hermia.....	Lynnette Li
Dwight.....	Mike Newquist
The Other Woman/The Stranger.....	Valeria Rosero
U/S Jean, U/S Hermia.....	Alex Nolen

The play is 90 minutes. There is no intermission.

CAST BIOS



Cydney Moody (Jean) is a company member with The Comrades and has acted in two productions with her theatre family, *Mary-Kate Olsen is in Love* (Ashley) and *Prelude to a Kiss* (Leah/Ensemble), making this her third! She also served as Movement Director for *Bob: A Life in Five Acts* with them. She is represented by the lovely folks at Stewart Talent. Recent theatre credits include: *The Wolves* (#8) at Goodman Theatre and *Downstate* (Effie U/S) at Steppenwolf, which she went on for four performances. Film credits: *Tied Up* (Lead) with Ghosts of Vaudeville and *Out of the Heart* (Supporting) with Hone St. Productions. TV credit: Chicago Med (1 episode/ Supporting) on NBC. Love to all of you.



Bryan Breau (Gordon) is thrilled to be working on his first production with The Comrades! He is a company member with The Plagiarists and an Associate Artist with Dandelion Theatre. Last seen with The P's in *Some Like it Red*, and before that *Circle House* and *The Epic of Gilgamesh*. Other recent credits include *Everything in Between* with Dandelion Theatre, *Mavis, A Voyeur's Comedy* with The Residents, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Polarity Ensemble Theatre. An east coast transplant, Bryan has been acting in Chicago since 2007. Bryan earned

his BA in Theatre and English at Virginia Tech University.



Caroline Dodge Latta (Mrs Gottlieb) recently appeared as Catwoman in *Bog of Cats* at the Artistic Home and as the Duchess of York in Gift Theatre's production of *Richard III* at the

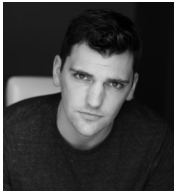
Steppenwolf Garage. She has also performed with Muse of Fire (staged reading: Countess in *All's Well*), Neapolitan (Louise & Edith in *The Seven*), Polarity (Mary Tyrone in *Long Day's Journey*), Profiles (Mercedes in *Thugs*) Citadel (Blanka in *A Nervous Smile*), City Lit (Nancy in *Seascape*), Journeymen (Ursula in *Vincent in Brixton*), and Theatre Entropy (Landlady in *1984*) and understudied at Victory Gardens and Remy Bumpgo. She recently retired and is now a Professor Emerita of Theater at Columbia College Chicago where she taught acting. From 1994-2001 she served as Dean of the College. Professor Latta received her B.A. in Theatre from the University of Maine and her MA and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Champaign Urbana. She met Arianna and Mike at Columbia and is delighted to be working with them; she also enjoys serving as Bryan's mother once again.



Lynnette Li (Hermia) is honored to work with The Comrades on this production! She's an actor, singer, writer, and mom. Some favorite credits include: *Endeavor Mind* (The

CAST BIOS CONT.

Plagiarists), *The Penelopiad* (Lost Geneva Project), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (HPCP), one-woman show *Journey to Topaz* (Sierra Rep Theatre), and *Songs for a New World* (The Red Stamp). Lynnette teaches Music Together® classes with marshasmusic.com, writes for theparentvoice.com, and co-created a new podcast called Motherhood Every Kind of Way. She lives in Hyde Park with her two children and her husband. Lynnette is represented by Shirley Hamilton, Inc.



Mike Newquist (Dwight) is a Chicago based actor and improviser. He is one of the founding members of The Comrades and has also worked with Raven Theatre, Pride Films & Plays, Prop Theatre, Strawdog, Jackalope Theatre, and Mary-Arrchie among others. Commercial: Illinois Tourism. Select New Media: *The Dreamers*, *Dudes*, *Coffee Talk*. An alumni of The Second City's Comedy Studies Program and Columbia College Chicago, Mike teaches improv for St. James Common's Congregational Wellness Advocacy Training Program. He is also a freelance cartoonist. Follow his artwork on Instagram: @newqcartoons.



Valeria Rosero (The Stranger/The Other Woman) is very excited to work with The Comrades for the first time! She is an Ecuadorian-born, Chicago-based actor whose recent credits include *Neverland* (Prop Thtr); *DeTroya* (Halcyon Theatre); *Le Fruit Défendu* (Pride Films and Plays); *La Havana Madrid* (Teatro Vista at the Goodman Theatre); and *Luz Estrada* (Mercy Street Theatre). She graduated from Northwestern University as a Theatre major with a BA in Communication. Valeria is represented by Shirley Hamilton.



Alex Nolen (Jean/Hermia understudy) is thrilled to be understudying two awesome ladies. She is a recent graduate of the ACADEMY at Black box acting and is a proud artistic associate with The Comrades. Recent credits include *Prelude to a Kiss* (The Comrades) and *Troll* (Trap Door Theatre). Much love to her family, friends, Greer, and The Comrades. Catch Alex onstage this March in the premiere of *For the Record* at Prop Thtr.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

Arianna Soloway (Director) Originally from Atlanta, GA, Arianna graduated from Columbia College Chicago in 2013 with a BFA in directing for theater. She recently directed a site-specific production of *Pine* by Jacqui Honess-Martin, *Carrie & Francine* with Haven Theatre Company, and *Guardians* at Mary Arrchie Theatre as well as short plays for the Women's Theatre Alliance, Bechdel Fest at Broken Nose Theatre, Paragon Play Festival at Otherworld Theatre Company, and Ripped: The Living Newspaper Festival at American Blues Theater. She assistant directed *Scientific Method* at Rivendell Theatre, *Linda* at Steep Theatre, *How to Use a Knife* at Shattered Globe, *Pillars of the Community* at Strawdog,

Roz and Ray at Victory Gardens, *Red Handed Otter* at A Red Orchid Theatre, *A Small Fire* at Steep Theatre, *Seminar* at Haven Theatre Company, and *Intelligence* at Arena Stage (through the SDC observership program). Arianna serves as the Literary Manager at Route 66 Theatre and is an Associate Member of the SDC.

Melanie Kulas (Production Stage Manager) loves being a member of The Comrades! As an Artistic Associate with The Comrades, she has stage managed multiple productions with them over the last three seasons. In Chicago, Melanie has worked as a stage manager with AstonRep, Circle Theatre, Interrobang Theatre Project, Pride Films & Plays, and Strawdog, to

name a few. Each spring, Melanie travels to her alma mater to stage manage the UW Varsity Band Spring Concert in Madison, WI. Melanie would like to thank her friends and family for all of their support, especially Joe, for late night pick-me-ups and an enduring, true partnership.

Claire Yearman (Fight Choreographer) is an actor, SAFD certified teacher, and a fight & intimacy choreographer. She has an MFA in Acting from Western Illinois University and is a company member with Interrobang Theatre Project. Some theatres she's worked with include: Williams Street Rep, Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, AstonRep, Interrobang Theatre Project, Oil Lamp Theatre, Red Tape Theatre, Piccolo Theatre, Metropolis Performing Arts, 20% Theatre, and Wheaton Drama. Many thanks to her mom, dad, and friends for their continual love and support.

Mike McShane (Lighting Designer) An emerging Chicago designer with an MFA in Lighting Design from the University of Florida. Upon arrival in Chicago last year, he had the opportunity to program for Keith Parham at Victory Gardens on Paula Vogel's *Indecent*. His favorite designs include *The Lion in Winter*, *Death of a Salesman*, *True West*, *The Elephant Man*, *dark play: or stories for boys*, *Doubt*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and *Waiting for Godot*. In April, he will design MTI JR's pilot production of *Wicked Jr.* in Oak Park. Visit his website: mikemcshane.weebly.com

Kelsey O. Cox (Costume Designer) is wicked excited to make her Comrades debut! Graduating from Columbia College Chicago with a BA in Fashion Business, she is thrilled to be a full time freelance costumer and fashion stylist. Recently, Kelsey just finished her first feature film as a Key Set Costumer for *Monuments*. Kelsey also assistant manages a women's clothing boutique called The Colette Collection in her spare time. She would like to thank her family, friends, and coffee for all of the love and support!

Eric Backus (Composer/Sound Designer) is excited work with The Comrades for the first time! Regional credits include *Mark Twain's River of Song* and *The All Night Strut*

(Milwaukee Rep.), and *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (TheatreSquared). Recent Chicago credits include *This Bitter Earth*, *Bull in a China Shop* (About Face Theatre), *Becky Shaw*, *Apartment 3A* (Windy City Playhouse), *Beauty's Daughter* (American Blues Theater), *Nice Girl*, *The Assembled Parties* (Raven Theatre), *Anna Karenina*, *A Wrinkle in Time* (Lifeline Theatre). Eric also designed the Off-Broadway, Chicago, and touring productions of SoloChicago Theatre's *Churchill*. To hear more of his music, please visit ericbackus.com.

Sydney Achler (Scenic Designer) is thrilled to design her third show with The Comrades—now as an ensemble member! She is a Chicago based scenic designer and painter with roots she loves returning to in the Minneapolis scene. She is also a (re)discover theatre ensemble member and resident scenic designer for DalekoArts. Many thanks to Derek, Melanie, and Becca for making it all happen, and to the rest of The Comrades for welcoming her so warmly!

Becca Venable (Technical Director) is a Dallas, Texas native now living in Chicago where she is the technical director at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a company member with The Comrades. In May 2018 she was the recipient of the Michael Merritt Emerging Technical Collaborator Award. Becca also works as a freelance technical director, lighting designer, and sound designer around the city. Some of Becca's credits include *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Chicago Children's Theatre), *The Nutcracker* (Ballet Lubbock), *Topdog/Underdog* (Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre), *Dying City* (The Comrades), *American Hero* (First Floor Theater), and *The Good Fight* (Babes with Blades).

Derek Bertelsen (Artistic Director) is excited to bring *Dead Man's Cell Phone* to life. He also serves as co-Artistic Director for AstonRep Theatre Company where he'll be directing Rebecca Gilman's *The Crowd You're In With* later this spring. Next with The Comrades, directing the world premiere of *Roast* by Harry Wood here at the Greenhouse in July. Love to Nelson and special thanks to Arianna and the rest of the team.