

the comrades

presents

ROAST

By Harry Wood

Directed by Derek Bertelsen

Production Stage Manager

Melanie Kulas

Scenic Designer

Sydney Achler

Costume Designer

Uriel Gomez

**Lighting Designer/
Asst. Sound Designer**

Nicholas Coso

**Technical Director/
Sound Designer**

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

The play runs 90 minutes and there is no intermission.
Readmittance is not guaranteed once the play has started.
Please note: This play contains discussion of suicide.

CAST AND SHOW INFORMATION

Edward Warner	John Miraglia
Sharon Oldstone	Alison Plott
Keith Cross	Reginald Hemphill
Alyssa Warner	Kyra Jones
Beth Wilde	Kelli Walker
Sonny "Sunny D" Dennison	Mike Newquist
Albert Lassiter	Roy Pugh
Edward U/S	Subhash Thakrar
Alyssa U/S	Delaney Clark

Place: The dias of a roast and the back room at the Tranquil Leaves Bereavement Palace in Brookline, MA

Time: 8pm/7pm Central

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Reginald Hemphill (Keith Cross) is thrilled to be playing the role of Keith and working with The Comrades for the first time. His recent Chicago credit was

as an understudy in *The Calorie Counters* presented by The Cuckoo's Theatre Project. He would like to thank the wonderful cast and crew for all their work, and you for coming to see the show.



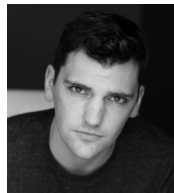
Kyra Jones (Alyssa Warner) is an actor, writer, filmmaker, and advocate committed to intersectional feminism and well-seasoned food. She is excited to be

making her debut with The Comrades. Past theatre credits include *Southern Gothic* (Windy City Playhouse), *Akeelah and the Bee* (Adventure Stage), *Expectation* (FYI), *Queer, Ill + Okay* (Oracle Theatre), and *Red Kite, Blue Sky* (Chicago Children's Theatre). Television and web media credits include Chicago Justice (NBC), *Seeds* (OTV), and Kappa Force (revry). Kyra co-created and stars in the web series *The Right Swipe* (OTV) with Juli Del Prete. She is an alum of Northwestern University and is repped by Stewart Talent.



John Miraglia (Edward Warner) moved to Chicago in 1995 and was a drummer in a band and took a few theater classes as well. Over the last 20 years he's been a

social worker, lawyer, husband and father in that order. He returned to acting about five years ago doing most work, luckily, in theater. Recent theater work includes *Tres Bandidos* and *Hellcab* with Agency Theater Collective, *God of Bears* at the Lincoln Loft, and *Come and Go* at the Factory.



Mike Newquist (Sonny "Sunny D" Dennison) is a Chicago-based actor and improviser. He is a founding member of The Comrades and has also worked with Raven

Theatre, Pride Films & Plays, Prop, Strawdog, Jackalope, and Mary-Arrchie among others. Commercial: Illinois Tourism. Select New Media: *The Dreamers*, *Dudes*, *Coffee Talk*. An alumnus 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.



Alison Plott (Sharon Oldstone) Comrades Founding Company Member: Patricia/*The Taming*; Amy/*In the Wake*; Holly/*Warrior Class*.

Chicago: *Through the Elevated Line*, Silk Road Rising (Jeff Nomination, Best New Work); *Le Switch (u/s)*, *About Face*; *The Vandal (u/s)*, *Steep*; *Variations on a Theme*, Piven Lab Series; *My Other Full Time Job* and *Voices of the Ark* with Erasing the Distance; *Wit*, AstonRep; *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Mortal Audit*, The Arc; *Unbearable Lightness of Being* and *The Odyssey*, Creative Wellness. Regional: *Or What You Will*, Oregon Shakespeare Festival; *Comedy of Errors*, New Swan Shakespeare Festival (CA); *The Learned Ladies* and *As You Like It*, Texas Shakespeare Festival; *Little Dog Laughed*, Theatre Out (CA); *The Wedding Singer* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, SRT (CA). MFA Acting, University of California, Irvine.



Roy Pugh (Albert Lassiter) This is Roy's debut with the Comrades and he's excited to be part of the cast. He most recently was part of Shattered Globe's

Protégé program. Roy has also worked on indie films and staged readings in the Chicagoland area. When he's not following his other passion as a personal chef and instructor, Roy loves devouring food from the festivals and restaurants around town and spending time with his Rhodesian Ridgeback.



Kelli Walker (Beth Wilde) last joined The Comrades for *In the Wake*. As a member of Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, she has appeared in *Miracle on*

South Division Street, *Outside Mullingar*,

Good People, *Love Song*, *Frozen*, and *The Underpants*. Other select Chicago credits include *R&J: The Vineyard* (Red Theater Chicago), *Angry F*gs* (Steppenwolf Garage/Pride Films and Plays) and understudying *For Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday* (Shattered Globe), *Roz and Ray* (Victory Gardens Theater), *Caught*, and *Stupid F#cking Bird* (Sideshow Theatre Company). Indianapolis credits include *Stuff Happens*, *Boston Marriage*, *Proof*, and the one-woman show *Callie's Tally* (Phoenix Theatre).



Delaney Clark (Alyssa Warner understudy)

Delaney is thrilled to be making her debut with The Comrades! She can be seen in the webseries *PowderPuff*, coming

soon! She is a recent graduate of Bucknell University with a BA in Theatre and a minor in Literary Studies. Favorite credits include: *Soubrette (Émilie: La Marquise du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight)*, *Grace Fryer (Radium Girls)*, and *Antipholus of Ephesus (Comedy of Errors)*. Lots of love to her parents and extra special thanks to Alison Plott.



Subhash Thakrar (Edward Warner understudy) is very

excited to be working with The Comrades for the first time! An actor and comedian based in

Chicago, he has had the great pleasure of working with Organic Theater Company, The Plagiarists, Victory Gardens Theater, and Rasaka Theatre Company. He has also trained in improvisation and Meisner Technique at such institutions as The Second City Chicago, iO Theater, and Act One Studios. Subhash is also a writer and performed stand up for several years. Offstage he enjoys latin dancing, traveling, uncontrollable laughter, great conversation, and indulging in delicious cuisine.

Harry Wood (Playwright) is a writer and comedian from New York City. He studied at Northwestern University, where he focused in acting, playwriting, and creative writing for the media. His first play *Roast* makes its production debut with The Comrades, after readings through (re)discover theatre's F(re)sh Ink Festival, and Jewish Theatre Ensemble's Night of New Works. He is currently writing for the second seasons of Mo Rocca's CBS Podcast "Mbituaries," and America's Test Kitchen's Podcast "Proof." You can also hear his writing on the second season of "The Story Pirates" podcast. He'd like to thank Laura Schellhardt and the 2016 Northwestern Playwriting Sequence for all their help bringing *Roast* to life. Like the main character of this play he first started doing open mics in Boston, but he'd like to once again remind his mom that this play is not about him, and he's doing okay, he promises.

Derek Bertelsen (Director) is Artistic Director of The Comrades and Co-Artistic Director for AstonRep Theatre Company. Select Chicago directing credits include *Mary-Kate Olsen Is In Love*, *Prelude To A Kiss* (The Comrades), *Design for Living*, *The Children's Hour* (Pride Films and Plays), *The Crowd You're In With*, *The Laramie Project*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *Wit*, *Doubt*, and *Next Fall* (AstonRep Theatre). Assistant directing credits include Goodman and Steppenwolf. Regional credits include shows at Festival 56, Shawnee Summer Theatre, and five seasons at Timber Lake Playhouse. Upcoming: *Equus* at AstonRep/Edge Theatre. Love to Nelson.

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. 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. In her spare time, Melanie enjoys backpacking through State Forests and National Parks. To follow along in her adventures, check out her YouTube channel "Melanie Hikes" and see

where she is off to next. 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.

Sydney Achler (Scenic Designer) is thrilled to be a part of her fourth show with The Comrades! She designs and paints scenery in Chicago and Minneapolis. Favorite designs include *The Tempest*, *Clearing* (Commission Theatre); *Constellations*, *Godspell*, *She Loves Me*, *Our Town* (DalekoArts); *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Warrior Class*, *Row After Row* (The Comrades). She received her BFA from Illinois Wesleyan University.

Becca Venable (Technical Director/Sound Designer) 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).

Nicholas Coso (Lighting Designer/Asst. Sound Designer) is an Artistic Associate with The Comrades. He recently finished his first year of University of Iowa's MFA Design program and is excited to be working with The Comrades again on *Roast*. Nicholas would like to thank his family and friends for their continued support. Hope you enjoy the show.

Uriel Gomez (Costume Designer) Design credits include the Chicago premieres of *The Wolf At The End Of The Block*, *Parachute Men* (Teatro Vista); *The River Bride* (Halcyon Theatre); and many more. He would like to thank Matt; as well as his friends, and family for all their support. For more information & designs please visit ugomez.com