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THE LAYOVER

By Leslye Headland

Directed by Drew Shirley

Production Stage Manager – Melanie Kulas

Intimacy/Violence Director – Lana Whittington

Assistant Director – Kamren Smith

Scenic Designer – Jenna Houck

Costume Designer – Meagan Beattie

Composer/Sound Designer – Will Mobley

Lighting Designer – Mike McShane

Technical Director – Forrest Hejkal

Artistic Director/Props Coordinator – Derek Bertelsen

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 Layover” is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company.

World Premiere Produced by Second Stage Theatre, New York, 2017. Carole Rothman, Artistic Director; Casey Reitz, Executive Director.

CAST

Shellie	Alison Plott
Dex.....	Michael Vizzi
Mya/Andrea.....	Emma Jo Boyden
Lily.....	Charlotte Hensley
Fred/Pilot.....	Jim Morley
Kevin/Arno.....	Joshua J. Volkors
Mya/Andrea Understudy.....	Sarah-Lucy Hill
Dex/Kevin/Arno Understudy.....	Peter Surma

The action of the play takes place between Thanksgiving and Valentine's Day, present day.

There is no intermission. If you need to leave during the performance, readmittance is not guaranteed.

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM BIOS



Emma Jo Boyden (Andrea/Mya) is excited to be making her Comrades debut! Most recently she was seen in the Lyric Opera's production of *Don Giovanni* directed by Robert Falls. Other

Chicago credits include *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Drury Lane), *Hamlet* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), and *All Childish Things* (First Folio). Film credits include *All or Nothin'*. Emma is a graduate of the University of Michigan's BFA Acting program and is an Advanced Actor Combatant with the SAFD. She would like to send a huge thank you to her family, friends, and the awesome team at Stewart Talent. Go Blue!



Charlotte Hensley (Lily) is thrilled to be part of The Layover. She is 13 years old and made her professional theater debut in *An Inspector Calls* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater). She has appeared in seven short films, most recently

Medium Rare, and done voice over work for video games. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support; Marika Engelhardt, for teaching her so much; and the amazing Comrades/Layover team, for giving her this opportunity and being so kind. She is represented by Big Mouth Talent.



Jim Morley (Fred) is happy to join with The Comrades for this production. He has appeared at Redtwist Theatre in *Incident at Vichy* (Jeff nomination – Best Ensemble), *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Lettice and*

Lovage and *Shadowlands*. He was also seen in *As You Like It* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (First Folio Theatre), *John Bull's Other Island* and *The Well of the Saints* (Irish Repertory of Chicago) and *Next Fall* with AstonRep. Other credits include *In the Blood* at Circle Theatre (Jeff nominations – Best Production and Best Ensemble) and *Fool for Love* and *La Turista* (Azusa Productions).



Alison Plott (Shellie) is a founding company member with The Comrades. In Chicago, she has worked with Silk Road Rising, About Face, Steep, Piven, Broken Nose, Erasing the Distance, AstonRep, The Arc, and the

Women's Theatre Alliance. Regional credits include the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, New Swan Shakespeare Festival (CA), Texas Shakespeare Festival, Theatre Out (CA), and Santa Rosa Rep (CA). MFA Acting, University of California, Irvine. For Thooth, my very first (and favorite) scene partner.



Michael Vizzi (Dex) is incredibly excited to be making his debut with The Comrades in *The Layover*. National Tour: *Mission IMPROVable*. Chicago: *Mad Beat Hip & Gone* (Promethean Theatre Ensemble). Regional:

Rabbit Hole and *The Shape of Things* (Alice Austin Theatre). Short films: *Venere, For Better, and Civil*, winner of the Tacoma Film Festival's Best Pacific Northwest Film Award. Michael is a graduate of the Black Box Acting Studio Program, Second City Conservatory, and iO Training Center. He sends countless thanks to Drew, Derek, and the creatives at The Comrades for the opportunity as well as his family, friends, and agents at Big Mouth Talent for all their love and support.



Joshua J. Volkens (Kevin/Arno) is making his first appearance with The Comrades so please feel free to purchase him a celebratory bourbon (neat) at the bar as is customary. If you think you've seen him before, it's

probably from one of these shows: *Through The Elevated Line* at Silk Road Rising, *Not About Nightingales* at Raven Theatre, or *Watch On The Rhine* at The Artistic Home. Thank you for supporting storefront theater and enjoy the show!



Sarah-Lucy Hill (Andrea/Mya Understudy) is happy to make her Comrades debut. Recent Chicago credits include *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs* with Eclipse Theater, *Murder on the Nile* with Oil Lamp, *Light Up the Sky* with

Citadel, *Soul in Suburbia* with Collaboraction, and *Noises Off* with Three Brothers. Regional credits include *The Penelopiad* and *Other Desert Cities* with PCPA, and *Comedy of Errors* and *Eccentricities of a Nightingale* with A Noise Within. She is proudly repped by Actors Talent Group. www.sarahlucyhill.com



Peter Surma (Dex/Arno/ Kevin Understudy) This is Peter's first time working with The Comrades and he is very thankful for the opportunity. Previous credits include: *The Laramie Project* (Various) AstonRep, *An Enemy of the*

People (Townsperson) Goodman Theatre, *Pins and Withers* (Billy/Keith) A Red Orchid Theatre, *Young Playwrights Festival* (Various) Pegasus Theatre, *Making God Laugh* (Richard) Steel Beam Theatre, *Moon Over Buffalo* (Howard) BrightSide Theatre.

Drew Shirley (Director) is a director who loves his wife and his mastiff very much. He has most recently worked with Chicago Shakespeare, Theater Wit, Remy Bumpgo, the Utah Shakespeare Festival, One Year Chekhov, Erasing The Distance, the Hermosa Beach Playhouse, and the Kingsmen Shakespeare company. He received his MFA in acting from the University of Illinois, and a BFA in theater from the University of Emporia. Drew won the Outstanding Director Award from StageScene LA for his production of Dennis Lehane's *Coronado*, and has directed a number of shows in Los Angeles and in Chicago. Most recently he directed Southwest Shakespeare's production of *Macbeth* and *One Woman Hamlet* (starring Kate Smith) which is currently playing in Chicago.

Melanie Kulas (Production Stage Manager) loves being a company member of The Comrades and 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.

Kamren Smith (Asst. Director) knows you have a choice in entertainment, and he is thrilled that you've chosen *The Layover* for your theatre-going experience! His most recent credits include: *Equus* (AstonRep), *Elevator Girl* (Vanguard Arts Collective), *Gift of the Mogwai* (InGen Productions), *Bangarang! A Neverland Reunion* (InGen Productions), and *Warrior Class* and *In the Wake* (The Comrades). Kamren is a company member with The Comrades. Much love and many thanks to his support system.

Jenna Houck (Scenic Designer) has recently moved to Chicago and is excited to create such provocative and exciting theatre with The Comrades! Illinois Scenic Design credits include: *Concerning Foster* (Mudlark Theatre Co), *A Christmas Carol* (Metropolis Performing Arts Center), and *An Accidental Death of a Black Motorist* (The Conspirators). Upcoming, Jenna is designing with Piven Theatre, and literally painting the town red (and many other colors, she's a Scenic Painter as well). MFA Penn State University. View more of her work at www.jennahouckdesigns.com.

Will Mobley (Sound Designer/Composer) This is Will's first show with The Comrades and he is grateful for the opportunity to make this foray into sound design. As an actor Mobley has performed at various Chicago and regional theaters. As a musician he is a founding member of the Chicago band The Winchesters and has composed for podcasts. Find more of his music at thewinchestersband.com.

Mike McShane (Lighting Designer) is a Chicagoland freelance designer. He designed lights last year for The Comrades' production of Sarah Ruhl's *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. His current projects include *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Lord of the Flies*, *The Remarkable Adventure of Princess Fu Xiao* and *Born Yesterday*. Visit his design website at mikemcshane.weebly.com.

Meagan Beattie (Costume Designer) is a Chicago-based Costume Designer. Her recent work includes *Twelfth Night* (Midsommer Flight), *Keely and Du* (Intrinsic Theatre Company), *Grace, Or The Art Of Climbing*, *Little Women The Musical* (Brown Paper Box Co.), and *Six Degrees of Separation* (Redtwist Theatre). She holds a B.A. in Theatre Design and Production from Columbia College Chicago. Visit meaganbeattie.com to see her portfolio and full resume.

Lana Whittington (Fight/Intimacy Director) is so excited to be working with The Comrades! Originally from Dallas she has been working around Chicago as a violence designer, intimacy designer and actor since relocating in 2015. Some other works include *Grey House* with A Red Orchid Theatre, *Spring Awakening* with Three Brothers Theatre, *King Henry V* with First Folio Theatre, and *12 Fights of Christmas* with Otherworld Theatre. She is certified with Fight Directors of Canada and SAFD, she is also Otherworld Theatre's resident fight choreographer. Lana would like to thank her husband for all his support!

Derek Bertelsen (Artistic Director/Props Coordinator) most recently directed *Roast* for The Comrades and *Equus* for AstonRep Theater Company. Since moving to Chicago ten years ago, he's worked with Pride Films and Plays, BrightSide Theatre, Bailiwick Chicago, The Arc and assistant directed at Goodman and Steppenwolf. Big thanks to the *Layover* team and love to Nelson.

Forrest Hejkal (Technical Director) is a TD, designer, director, producer, and actor who splits his time between Chicago and Ann Arbor, MI. Most recently he has been the resident set designer and technical director for Theatre Nova in Ann Arbor. He holds a bachelor's degree in directing from Hampshire College and has studied at the National Theatre Institute. Forrest is also passionate about community building, farms, swimming holes, dogs, and music. When not working on a production, he can be found in a woodshop, a canoe, or down a dusty trail.