

THE MOBTOWN PLAYERS PRESENT

# Sylvia

A.R. Gurney



**The Mobtown Theater at Meadow Mill  
3600 Clipper Mill Road, Ste 114  
Hampden, Baltimore, MD**



**December 4-6, 10-13, 17-19, 2009**  
Thurs/Fri/Sat Showtimes 8pm • Sundays 3pm

[www.mobtownplayers.com](http://www.mobtownplayers.com)

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTES:** Caitlin D. Bouxsein

Have you ever wondered what your pets are thinking? Have you ever wished that they could talk to you? In *Sylvia*, A.R. Gurney gives us insight into one dog's thoughts, opening our imaginations to the idea of a world where this is possible. When I first read the play, I was struck by the humor of it, but it is more than a funny story about a dog. The play examines relationships (both human and animal), the search for meaning in life, and a common need that we all share to feel connected in some way to the world around us. While we cannot all know what it feels like to face a mid-life crisis, such as Greg does in this story, I believe that the feelings he has about life and the search for connections are ones that everyone can relate to in some way or another. I was also drawn to the play because I strongly feel that animals play an integral part in our lives, an idea that is brought to life in the story. I hope that the audience will enjoy suspending reality to come along with us on the journey that is *Sylvia*.

"Happiness is a warm puppy." ~Charles M. Schulz

**Caitlin D. Bouxsein** (Director) has a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Drew University where she directed, acted, designed and choreographed for various productions. She is happy to be working on her fourth show at Mobtown, having most recently directed *Three Days of Rain* by Richard Greenberg. She is pleased to be reunited with the *Sylvia* cast members after having performed with them in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Reisterstown Theatre Project this past summer. She has also performed at other local venues including The Strand, Pumpkin Theatre, and Just Left of Broadway. "Thank you to the wonderful cast and crew for all of your work. Thank you to my family for all of your love and support, especially my parents for baking cat-shaped cookies, helping me find a bush, and keeping me calm during this crazy process. I would like to dedicate this production to my Aunt Nancy who loved all animals."

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We would like to give special thanks to the following people: Tony Gallahan, Jodi Dunn, Peter Bouxsein, Lauren Levine, and Carlos Guillen.

We would also like to give special thanks to Greenfields Nursery & Landscaping Company for providing foliage for our park ([www.greenfieldsnursery.com](http://www.greenfieldsnursery.com)).

We encourage you to help control the pet population and have your pets spayed or neutered. If you are able, we hope you will consider opening your home to an animal in need. Please visit one of the many local area animal shelters for information about adoptions and donations.



# Sylvia

by A.R. Gurney

## CAST

**Sylvia** ————— **Melissa O'Brien**  
**Greg** ————— **Mark C. Franceschini**  
**Kate** ————— **Deb Carson**  
**Tom, Phyllis, Leslie** — **Brian S. Kraszewski**

**Deb Carson** (Kate) - Deb is just drooling over her first Mobtown experience and has thoroughly enjoyed her time spent with this talented cast & crew. Deb's favorite past roles include Snoopy (I know, right?) in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown!*, Sonia in *Godspell*, Brooke in *Dilemmas with Dinner*, Gertrude in *The Underpants* and Lady Celia in *Gorey Stories*. She would like to thank her four-legged friends Stormy, Zorro, Rocky and Clorox for their love & support as well as her humanoid bffs & family for keeping her relatively sane(ish) in this dog-eat-dog world!

**Mark C. Franceschini** (Greg) was recently seen on stage with Reisterstown Theater Company as Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and with Columbia Community Players as Dussel in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Mark is usually found directing, and recent productions have included *Dilemmas with Dinner*, and *The Underpants* for Hanover Community Players, *Don't Dress for Dinner* and *Gaslight* for CCP, *Fires in the Mirror*, *Laundry and Bourbon*, and *Noises Off* at Silver Spring Stage as well as *The Music Man* and *The Sound of Music* for the Glyndon Area Players. Thanks to Beth, Miranda and Olivia for letting me play. This one's for you, Muffin, wherever you are.

**Brian S. Kraszewski** (Tom/Phyllis/Leslie) is happy to be returning to the Mobtown Theatre. Last spring he appeared in the Mobtown Players' production of *Three Days of Rain* as Walker and Ned. Brian has most recently performed as Lysander in Reisterstown Theatre Project's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Regionally he has appeared in *Camelot* (Sir Sagamore), *Pippin* (Pippin), *South Pacific* (Lt. Cable), and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Joseph). Brian studied Theatre and Acting at Essex Community College and UMBC. Brian would like to thank his family and friends for their continued support and love.

**Melissa O'Brien** (Sylvia) last appeared on the Mobtown stage as Nan and Lina in *Three Days of Rain*, her third project with Mobtown. Previously, she assistant-directed *Six Dead Queens* and *An Inflatable Henry* and learned the entire play as swing for the whole cast - an undertaking that was paid off with appearances as Katherine Howard and Jane Seymour. Prior to that, she appeared as Beatrice, a woman pretending to be a man, in *Servant of Two Masters*. Favorite past roles, undertaken in various spaces, include Charlotte Corday in *Marat/Sade*, Mary Warren in *The Crucible*, and, ages and ages ago, Princess Winnifred in *Once Upon a Mattress*. Melissa's theatrical life is not limited to acting - she has directed, taught theatre, stage-managed, designed costumes, wrangled props, and run light boards. If you're lucky, you might catch her alter ego, Viola Van Wilde, in performances around Baltimore and DC as part of the absolutely fabulous Gilded Lily. Melissa's performance is dedicated to Arthur, the best dog ever.

## CREW

**Director - Caitlin D. Bouxsein**  
**Stage Manager - Nicole Reynolds**  
**Set Design - Jenn Grecco**  
**Sound Design - John Fahres**  
**Light Design - Rob Astle**  
**Props Design - Thomas Peter**  
**Costume Design - Helenmary Ball**  
**Programs - Mark Huesman**  
  
**Production Photos**  
**by Will Kirk and Cheryl Fair**  
**Poster and Postcard Design**  
**by Timothy Storck**

**Rob Astle** (Light Design) has worked on lights at Mobtown for several past shows, most recently for the Mobtown Playwright's Group production of *The Ladies of Libraryland*. He last worked with Caitlin on *Three Days of Rain*.

**Helenmary Ball** (Costumes) has worked on costumes for various productions. She recently designed the costumes for the 2009 Baltimore Playwrights Festival production of *Sex and Desperation* at Spotlighters.

**John Fahres** (Sound Design) is a Baltimore-area technician who has worked in A/V production and public radio in the region for 19 years, most recently managing and producing events at Towson University. He is also a singer/songwriter who has toured regionally and released two albums, 1999's *True Stories*, *Total Fabrications*, and 2007's *Simple But Effective*.

**Jenn Grecco** (Set Design) is an aspiring artist who attended MICA. She has built sets for many plays and has experience in acting on stage and in small independent films. Jenn enjoys writing and painting. Currently, she is in the process of writing 2 screenplays. Her dream for the future is to become a screenwriter. Thank you to Caitlin for giving the opportunity to help with *Sylvia*.

**Thomas Peter** (Props) is happy to return to Mobtown, where he also worked on props for the 2008 Baltimore Playwrights Festival production of *The "A" Word*. Recent credits include stage managing *Sex and Desperation* at Spotlighters and acting appearances in *The Glass Menagerie*, *Our Town* and *Twelfth Night*. Thomas is a graduate of Kenyon College, and has done Marketing and Communications internships at Actors Theatre of Louisville and the Freeman Foundations in Olney, MD.

**Nicole Reynolds** (Stage Manager) is originally from Virginia, and has been involved in theater for many years. Nicole performs with Gilded Lily Burlesque, is a pin up model, and has dreams of directing her own play one day. She has tapped into acting, stage managing, and has been part of many productions. Usually you find Nicole on stage, but for *Sylvia*, she couldn't have imagined anything else but working side by side with such an inspiring director as Caitlin. "Thank you to Caitlin for being so inspiring and encouraging. Thank you to the amazing cast and crew for all of your hard work, dedication and laughs! Thank you to my daughter Mia for attending several rehearsals and being a great "understudy."

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## MOBTOWN PLAYERS STAFF

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**President: Melissa O'Brien**

**Vice-President: Caitlin Bouxsein**

**Business Manager: Ana J. Pavich**

**Staff-at-Large: Ruth Henry, Lisa Maydwell,  
Mark Squirek, Ryan Whinnem**

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## MOBTOWN BOARD

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**Tony Gallahan**

**Bill Henry**

**Lizzie Jump**

**Karen Moul**

**Ana J. Pavich**

**Noel Schively**



For information on upcoming shows,  
please visit

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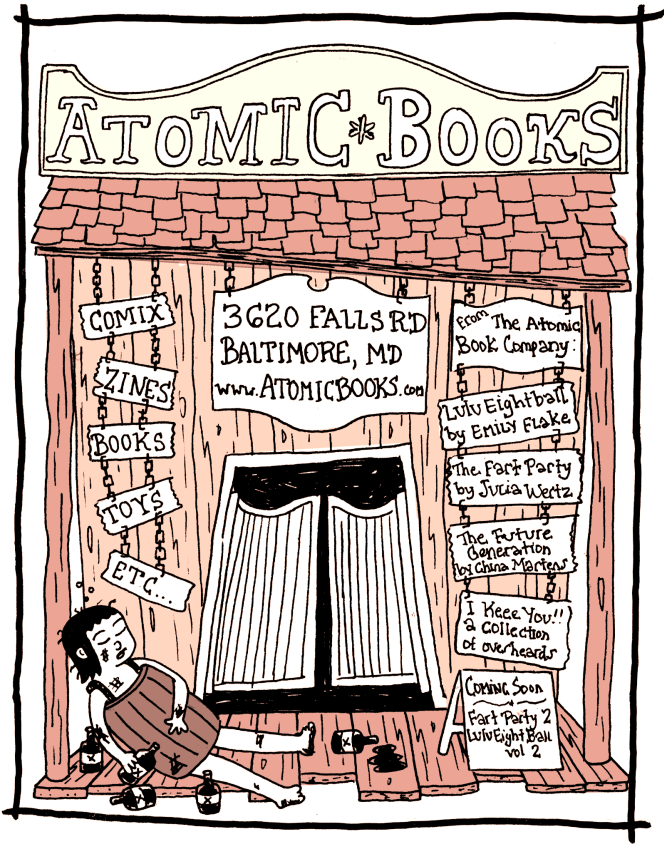
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