



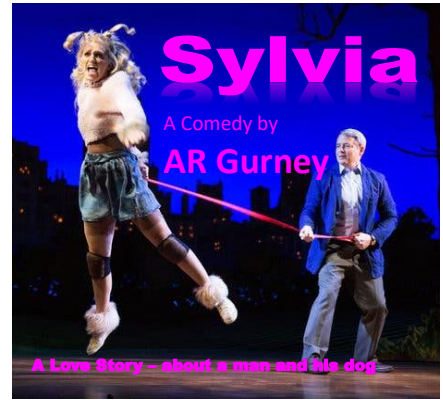
Announcing - "SYLVIA"

**AUDITIONS - August 7 & 9 – 6:30 PM
(Monday, Wednesday)
West Bend Masonic Center, Lower Level**

PERFORMANCES: October 6, 7, 8, and 13, 14, 15

DIRECTOR: Megan Bell MUSIC DIRECTOR: Janice Westphal

VIEW: [A video clip with Sarah Jessica Parker playing the role of "Sylvia"](#)



THE STORY: *A modern romantic comedy about a marriage, a midlife crisis - and a dog.*

Greg and Kate have moved to Manhattan after twenty-two years of child-raising in the suburbs. Greg's career as a financial trader is winding down, while Kate's career, as a public-school English teacher, is beginning to offer more opportunities. Greg brings home a dog he found in the park—or that has found him—bearing only the name "Sylvia" on her name tag. A street-smart mixture of Lab and poodle, Sylvia becomes a major bone of contention between husband and wife. Sylvia offers Greg an escape from the frustrations of his job and the unknowns of middle age. To Kate, Sylvia becomes a rival for affection. And Sylvia thinks Kate just doesn't understand the relationship between man and dog. The marriage is put in serious jeopardy until, after a series of hilarious and touching complications, Greg and Kate learn to compromise, and Sylvia becomes a valued part of their lives.

ROLES AND CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS:

GREG – (appearing age 42-65) A middle-aged financial trader who finds a stray dog and falls in love. He loves his wife, but hates his job and is going through some sort of mid life crisis. He thinks Sylvia is the answer to all of his problems.

KATE – (appearing age 42-65) A middle-aged school teacher whose career is on the upswing after raising kids and moving to Manhattan. She enjoys the freedom of empty nesting and resents Sylvia's presence in their lives.

SYLVIA – (appearing younger than 42) A street-smart, sexy labradoodle who finds the master of her dreams in Greg. Sylvia is energetic, a little naughty, and full of wonderment. She pushes the boundaries whenever possible, is equally demanding and endearing. She is like a two-year-old having an adorably fun day.

THREE OTHER CHARACTERS – (appearing about the same age as Kate) **TOM**, a philosophical dog-lover in the park; **PHYLLIS**, an old Vassar classmate of Kate's; and **LESLIE**, a marriage counselor whose therapy is based on his/her being utterly androgynous. *These characters may be cast separately, (or may all be played by the same actor.)

THE PRESS SAID:

"Dramatic literature is stuffed with memorable love scenes, but none is as immediately delicious and dizzy as the one that begins the redeeming affair in A.R. Gurney's new comedy, SYLVIA..." —**The New York Times**.

"I can only call it one of the most involving, beautiful, funny, touching and profound plays I have ever seen..." —**New York Daily News**.

"Gurney's mad comedy is the most endearing good time to trot down the pike in many a moon. Howlingly funny..." —**BackStage**

NOTABLE PRODUCTIONS: *Sylvia* opened [Off-Broadway](#) at Stage I of the Manhattan Theatre Club on May 2, 1995, where it ran for 167 performances. Directed by [John Tillinger](#), the cast included [Sarah Jessica Parker](#) as "Sylvia", [Blythe Danner](#), and [Charles Kimbrough](#). The production received [Drama Desk Award](#) nominations for Outstanding Play, Outstanding Actress in a Play (Parker), and Outstanding Costume Design (Jane Greenwood).

La Mirada Theatre, Los Angeles, California, in 2007 starring [Cathy Rigby](#) as "Sylvia".

Berkshire Theatre Group, Massachusetts, in July 2011. A reviewer called it a "comic masterpiece".

SIGN UP FOR AUDITIONS: When you sign up for auditions, choose one of the two available nights, Monday, August 7, or Wednesday August 9, 6:30 PM. Location is West Bend Masonic Center, Lower Level, 301 N University Drive, West Bend, WI 53095.

Use the following link to sign up for auditions: <https://forms.gle/oDMP6ywVbdT4zpHM8>

- Audition Materials will be available by July 24.
- Sign up now! We'll e-mail the audition materials to you.